



WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

no. 5 / TOMO
TAKEUCHI

WELCOME no. **5** | **TOMO
TAKEUCHI**
TO THE BALLROOM

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003

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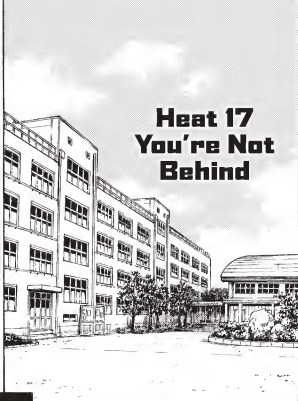
What a Weirdo

123

Heat 21

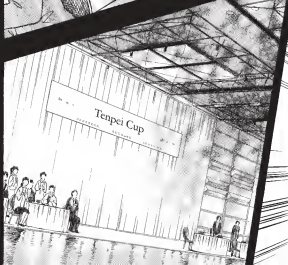
Basic

165



Heat 17 You're Not Behind

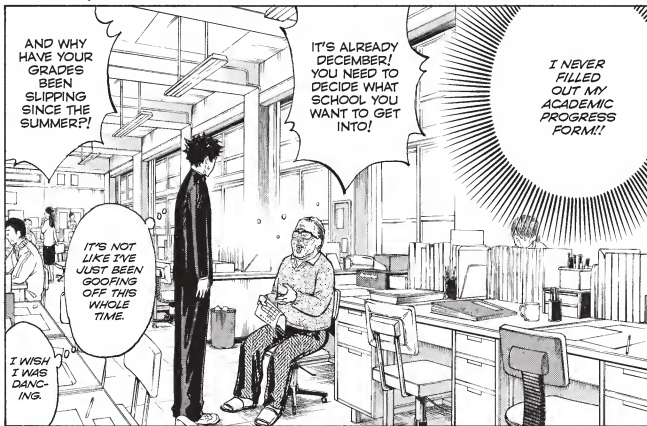




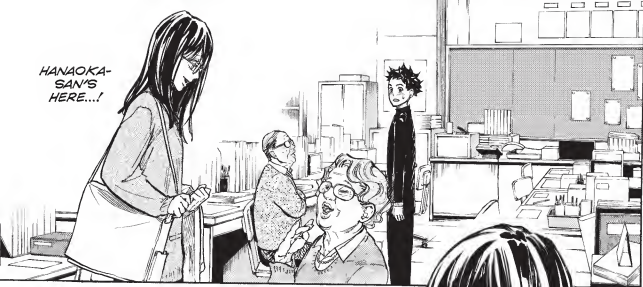
THREE
DAYS HAVE
PASSED
SINCE THE
TENPEI CUP.







HANAOKA-
SAN'S
HERE...!



I HATE TO
INTERRUPT
WHEN SHE'S
PRACTICING
AT THE
STUDIO.



THIS IS
GREAT!
BUT IS
SHE
ABOUT
TO
LEAVE
...?

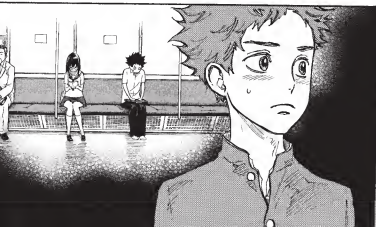
I... I
HOPE
I CAN
TALK TO
HER...

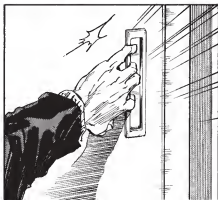
HELLO?
FUJITA?



...
ABOUT
GAJU-
SAN,
AND
HYODO-
KUN.

I WANT
TO ASK
HER...









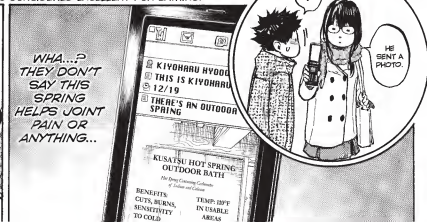
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
THE STUDIO,
WE CAN GO
TOGETHER.



REALLY?!



NOTE: KUSATSU IS A TOWN IN GUNMA PREFECTURE FAMOUS FOR ITS MANY HOT SPRINGS, THE ACIDIC WATER OF WHICH IS CONSIDERED EXCELLENT FOR BATHING.





AND THEN
GAJU-SAN
BARGED IN
AND STARTED
PESTERING
HER, ON
TOP OF
EVERYTHING.

PL00D PL00D
とば とば

I BET...

...

...THE
DANCING
REALLY
EXHAUSTED
YOU, HUH?

AT THE
TENPEI
CUP...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE!

I'M SORRY YOU
GOT DRAGGED
INTO MY
PROBLEMS...
SENGOKU-SAN
AND MAKO-
CHAN, TOO.

YEAH.

LIKE I'M
LUCKY I
GOT TO BE
IN A COM-
PETITION...

I ALMOST
FEEL LIKE I
SHOULD BE
THANKING
YOU...

IT WAS
THRILLING
TO SHARE
THE DANCE-
FLOOR
WITH YOU,
HANAOKA-
SAN!



HAVING YOU
IN THE FINALS
MADE THE
DANCES A LOT
MORE FUN.



TWIRL



MAYBE
YOU DON'T
KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS,
BUT...

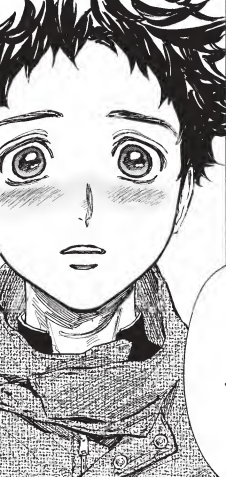
!-IT'S
TRUE!



!!
TWIRL
TWIRL



REALLY
...?



THANK
YOU...?

I
MEAN
...



GULP



SMOOTH

SMOOTH

...
...
...
FIDGET



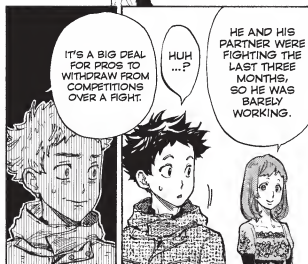
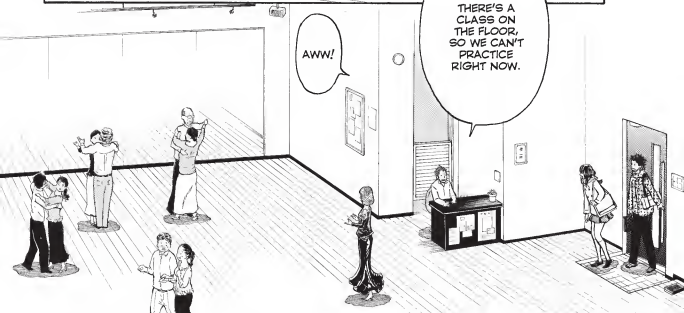
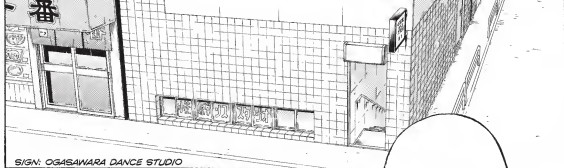
S...
SERIOUSLY?!

I—I KNOW!
LET'S PRACTICE
TOGETHER!
WE'D BOTH BE
SHADOWING
ANYWAY.



LET'S DO
A WALTZ!!

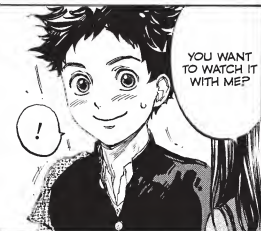
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
TO
DANCE





WE CAN'T
USE THE
FLOOR
RIGHT NOW
ANYWAY.

...



YOU WANT
TO WATCH IT
WITH ME?

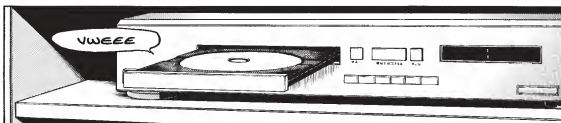


THE DVD OF
THE TENPEI
CUP CAME.

TENPEI-SENSEI
SENT IT.

THE
WHAT?

APPARENTLY
THE
SPONSOR
RECORDED
IT.

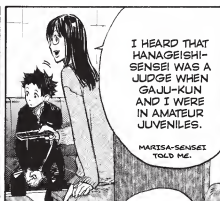


VWEEE



I FOUND
YOUR TEAM!

....!



I HEARD THAT
HANAGEISHI-
SENSEI WAS A
JUDGE WHEN
GAJU-KUN
AND I WERE
IN AMATEUR
JUVENILES.

MARISA-SENSEI
TOLD ME.



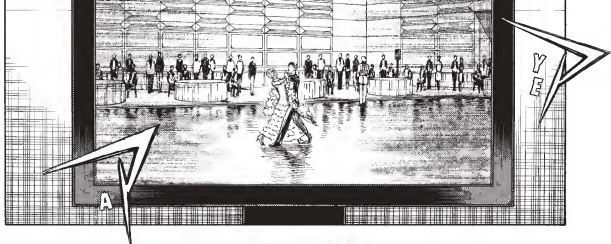
WE WERE
BOTH
SURPRISED.
WE DIDN'T
REMEMBER
HIM AT ALL.



FAST
FOR-
WARD!

THE
ROUNDS
TAKE SO
LONG!

WHEN DID
THOSE TWO
GET TO BE
FRIENDS?









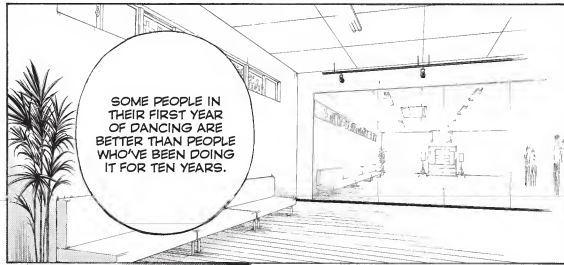
AND SOME
PEOPLE DON'T
START UNTIL
COLLEGE,
AND THEY
BECOME PRO
FINALISTS.

SOME
PEOPLE
HAVE DONE
IT SINCE
THEY WERE
KIDS, AND
NEVER WIN.

PERK

20

CREAK



SOME PEOPLE IN
THEIR FIRST YEAR
OF DANCING ARE
BETTER THAN PEOPLE
WHO'VE BEEN DOING
IT FOR TEN YEARS.

SMILE

150



I TALKED TO
KIYOHARU...



OBTAINING
KIYOHARU'S
KNEE
WAS PART OF
THAT
DECISION.

EVEN IF I
WAIT TO GET
A NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
AT MIKASA
FIRST, I'LL
STILL HAVE
PLENTY OF
TIME.



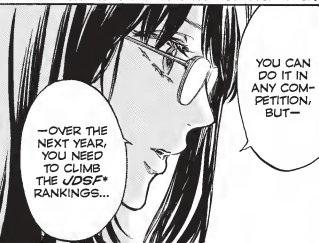
THMP
ドキ



**I WANT
TO FACE
YOU
AGAIN.**



*JAPAN DANCESPORT FEDERATION (AMATEUR GROUP)



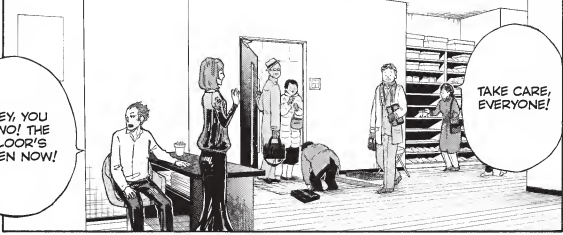
—OVER THE
NEXT YEAR,
YOU NEED
TO CLIMB
THE **JDSF***
RANKINGS...

YOU CAN
DO IT IN
ANY COM-
PETITION,
BUT—



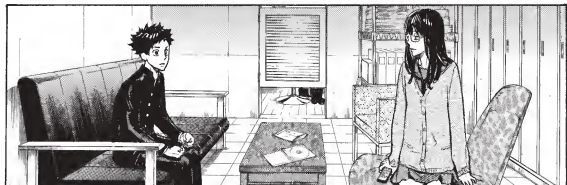
SO YOU
NEED TO
FIND A
PARTNER
AND START
COMPETING
SOON.



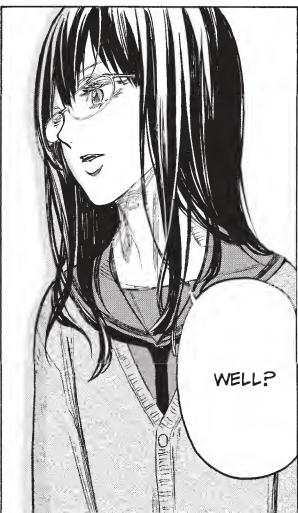
A man with spiky hair is sitting at a desk in a room. The floor is open, and several people are walking through the doorway. A woman is standing near the desk, and a man is walking away. A speech bubble from the man at the desk says, "HEY, YOU TWO! THE FLOOR'S OPEN NOW!".

HEY, YOU TWO! THE FLOOR'S OPEN NOW!

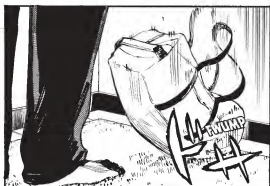
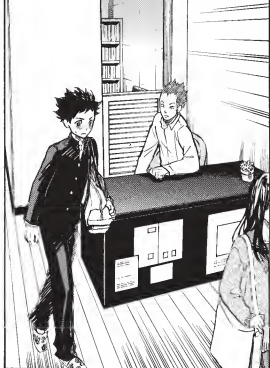
TAKE CARE, EVERYONE!

A close-up of a man's face. He has spiky hair and is looking towards the right. A speech bubble from him says, "WILL YOU DANCE?".

WILL YOU DANCE?

A close-up of a woman's face. She has long hair and glasses, and is looking towards the left. A speech bubble from her says, "WELL?".

WELL?



...WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE...

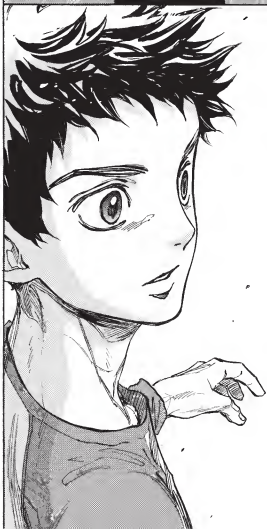


I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW...



THAT
ALONE
MAKES
ME—







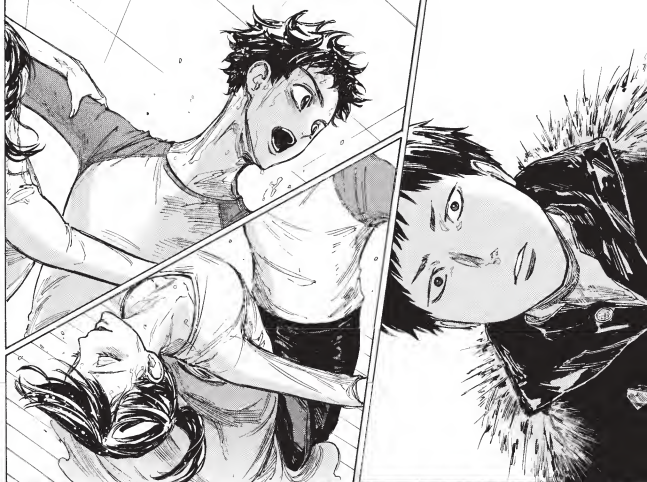
SIGN: OGASAWARA DANCE STUDIO



BOOK: JAPANESE HISTORY

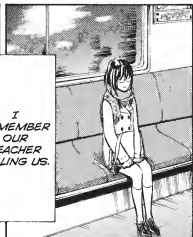








WHAT DO
YOU THINK IS
IMPORTANT
FOR A
DANCER?



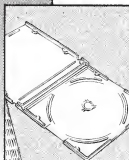
I
REMEMBER
OUR
TEACHER
TELLING US.



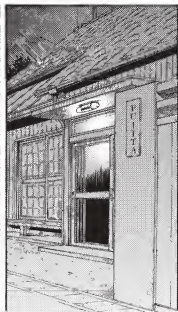
BUT BEYOND
THAT, OBSER-
VATION AND
EXPRESSIVE-
NESS CAN
ELEVATE
DANCE TO
THE REALM
OF ART.

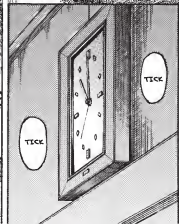
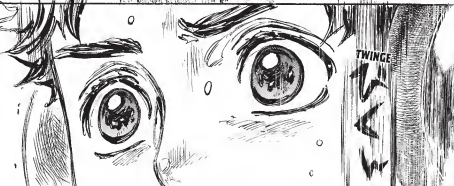


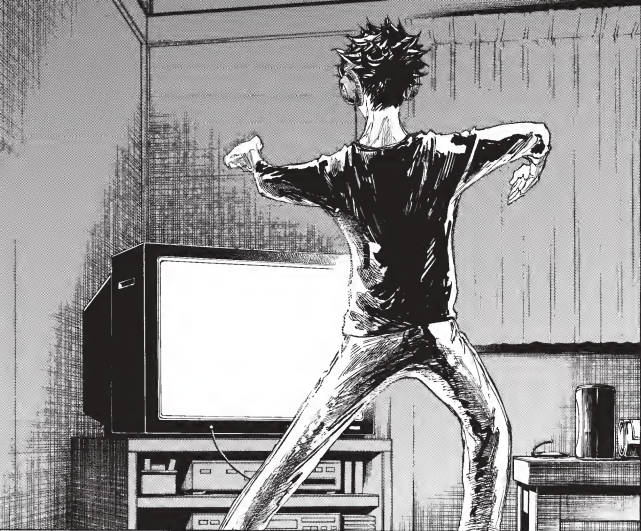
OBVIOUSLY
PHYSICAL
ABILITY AND
A SENSE OF
RHYTHM—



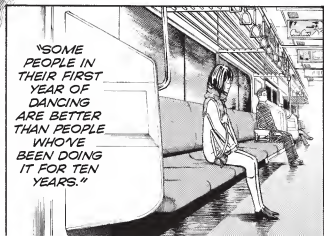
BUT TO
FEEL IN
YOUR GUT—



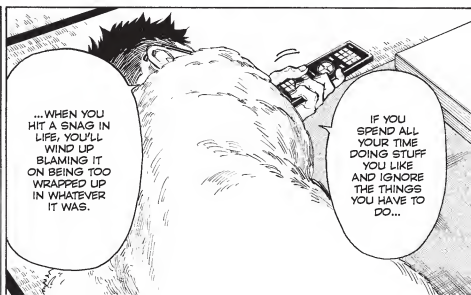


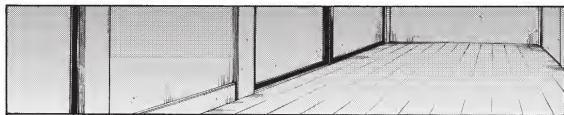


"YOU'RE
NOT
BEHIND,
FUJITA-
KUN."



"SOME
PEOPLE IN
THEIR FIRST
YEAR OF
DANCING
ARE BETTER
THAN PEOPLE
WHO'VE
BEEN DOING
IT FOR TEN
YEARS."







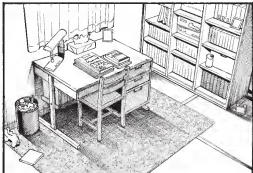
TATARA'S
STARTING TO
LOOK LIKE A
MAN.



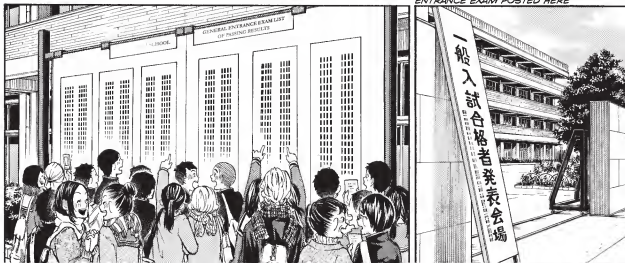
WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

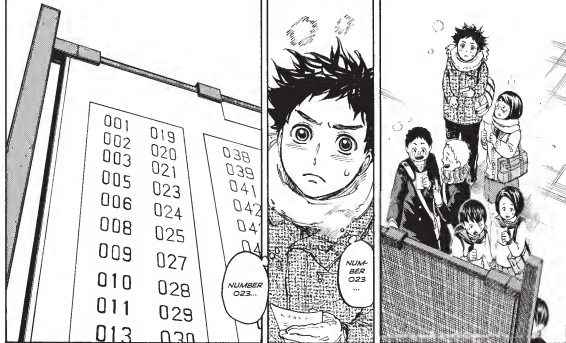


BOOKS: ENGLISH TEST PREP;
BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR TESTS: HIGH SCHOOL ROUND-UP



SIGN: PASSING RESULTS OF GENERAL
ENTRANCE EXAM POSTED HERE





Heat 18 New Faces

SPRING

THANKFULLY, I
MANAGED TO
MAKE IT TO
HIGH SCHOOL.

I CAN
TALK TO
GIRLS
PRETTY
NORMALLY
NOW.

SINCE I
STARTED
DANCING,
I FEEL LIKE I'VE
BECOME A
TINY BIT MORE
SOCIAL.

MAKE
SURE MY
NECKTIE'S
STRAIGHT...

IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL, THE
ONLY PEOPLE
WHO EVEN
TALKED TO ME
WERE MUROI-
KUN AND HIS
GUYS.

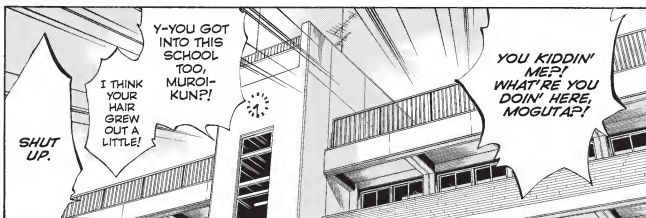
AND THEY TOOK
MY MONEY...

I'M
GONNA
MAKE A
TON OF
FRIENDS
IN HIGH
SCHOOL.
LIKE FINE
PEOPLE.

STANNING



I HOPE
THERE'S
A NICE,
UPBEAT
PERSON
I CAN BE
FRIENDS
WITH.

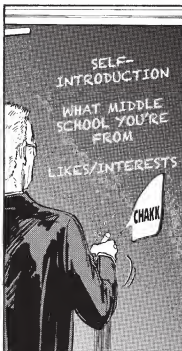


SHUT
UP.

I THINK
YOUR
HAIR
GREW
OUT A
LITTLE!

Y-YOU GOT
INTO THIS
SCHOOL
TOO,
MUROI-
KUNP!

YOU KIDDIN'
ME?
WHAT'RE YOU
DOIN' HERE,
MOGUTAP!



SELF-
INTRODUCTION
WHAT MIDDLE
SCHOOL YOU'RE
FROM
LIKES/INTERESTS

CHALK



FEW!



WANCE



FWUMP

おとろ...

SEAT NO. 36

SEAT NO. 35



WE'LL
START
WITH
STUDENT
NUMBER
1...

ALL RIGHT,
EVERY-
ONE. LET'S
HAVE YOU
INTRODUCE
YOUR-
SELVES.



IT'S
NICE
TO
MEET
YOU.

I LIKE
LISTEN-
ING TO
MUSIC.

I HAVEN'T
EVEN TOLD
MY DAD
YET.



...
SHOULD
I SAY
IT?

INTRO-
DUC-
TION...

ドキTHMP
ドキ
THMP

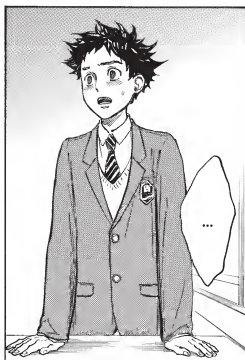
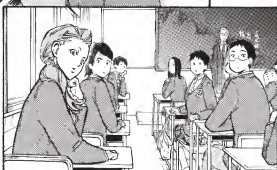


MY...MY
NAME IS
TATARA
FUJITA.

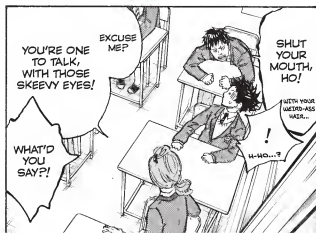
I WENT TO
TAMAMURA
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

I LIKE...

SCRAPE







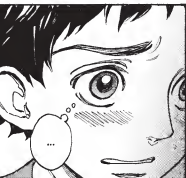




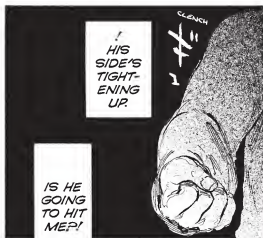
LABEL: BIG & STRONG AKULT

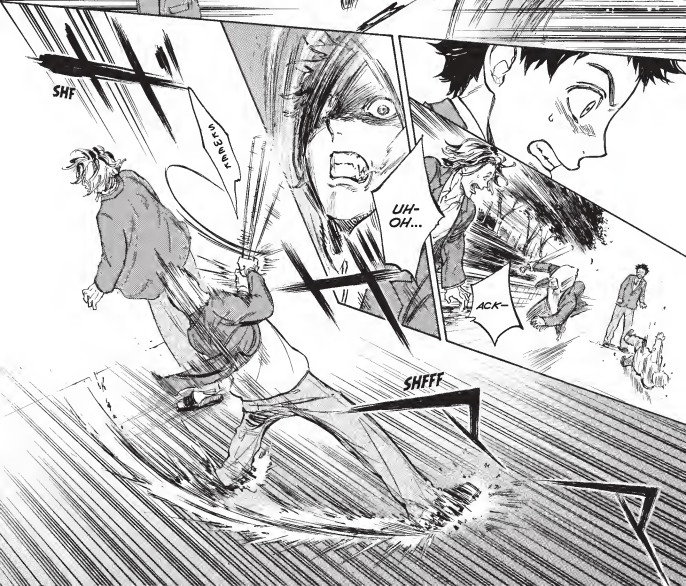


LABELS: CUTE ORANGE!, BIG & STRONG AKULT



WILL HE BE
MAD IF I
DODGE IT?









YOU ASKED
FER IT,
AKAGI...

**TATARA
FUJITAAA!!**



I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
DARE SHOW
YERSELF TO
ME...

SO GLAD I
FOUND YA!

WHAT?!

GRAB



**GAJU-
SAN?!**

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



!
SOMETHING
HAPPENED TO
MAKO-CHAN?!

IT'S YER
FAULT
THAT
MAKO'S...

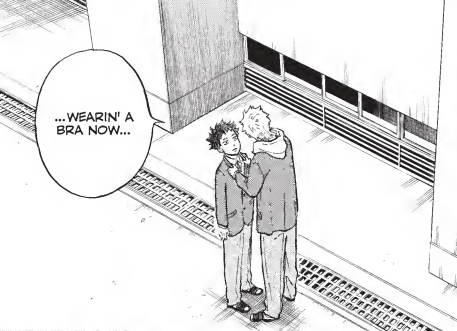
THAT
MAKO'S
...



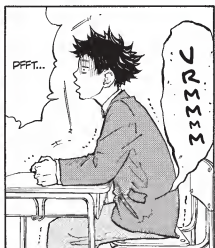
YER
GONNA
TAKE
RESPON-
SIBILITY,
THEN
I'M
GONNA
KILL
YA.

?!
?

I'M
GONNA
KILL
YA.









HE'S SCARY...

WHAT'S A SECOND-YEAR DOING HERE?



THEY WERE FIGHTING THIS MORNING.

THAT'S GAJU AKAGI-SAN, ISN'T IT...?

HE'S GOT RANGS, FOR REAL.

HUHP HE BROKE IT UP!



BUT WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT FUJITA?

...

WHISPER

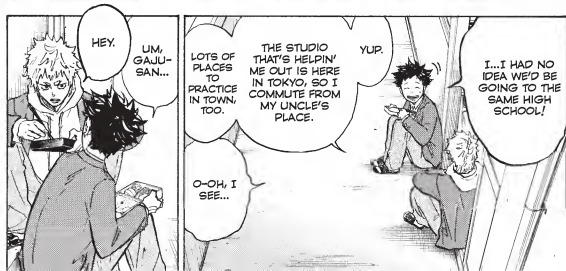
HE'S LIKE AN ANIMAL.

HE'S KINDA HOT.

もぐ

もぐ

I HEARD HE HELPS OUT WITH THE SOCCER TEAM AND BASKETBALL TEAM...



HEY.

UM, GAJU-SAN...

LOTS OF PLACES TO PRACTICE IN TOWN, TOO.

THE STUDIO THAT'S HELPIN' ME OUT IS HERE IN TOKYO, SO I COMMUTE FROM MY UNCLE'S PLACE.

YUP.

O-OH, I SEE...

I...I HAD NO IDEA WE'D BE GOING TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL!





THERE /S
SOME-
THING I
WANT TO
ASK.

わ
SHIET

IN THAT
CASE...

... OKAY...



...
THUMP



...GET ONTO
THE SAME
DANCE FLOOR
AS HANAOKA-
SAN?

HOW
CAN I...



"OVER THE
NEXT YEAR,
YOU NEED TO
CLIMB THE
RANKINGS."

HANAOKA-
SAN TOLD
ME...



I WANT
TO KNOW
ABOUT
COMPETI-
TIONS.

TH-
THAT'S
NOT IT!

HE
GETS
SUCH
CRAZY
IDEAS...

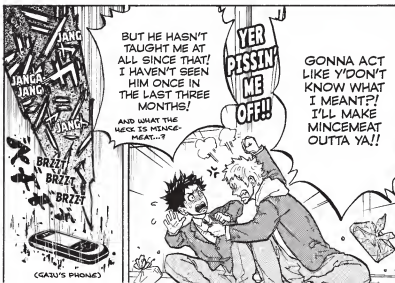
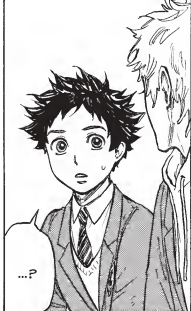
ハ
ハ
FLUSTER



OR ARE YOU
SAYIN' YOU
WANT TO BE
HER PART-
NER?

Y'KNOW
YOU BOTH
JUST
DANCED
IN THE
TENPEI CUP,
RIGHT?







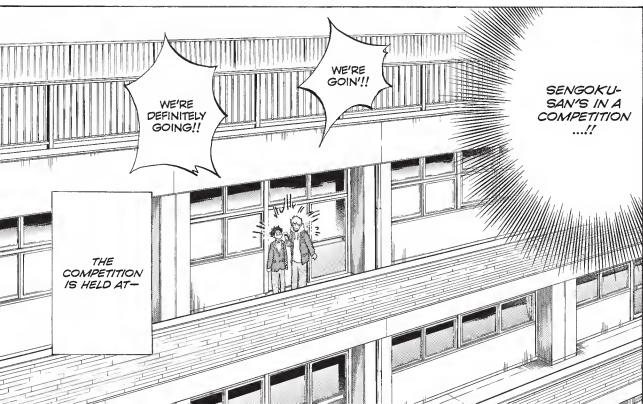
WHAT?!

WHAT IS
IT?!

SHOCK

**BWAAAH
?!**

SUB
I'M BACK IN JAPAN.
GONNA BE IN A COMP.
THIS WEEKEND
(TOKYO DANCE GRAND
PRIZ)
*IT'S OK IF YOU CAN'T
MAKE IT



WE'RE
DEFINITELY
GOING!!

WE'RE
GOIN'!!

SENGOKU-
SAN'S IN A
COMPETITION
....!!

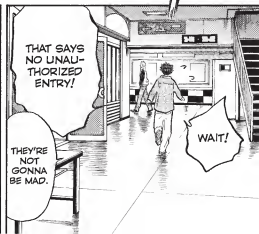
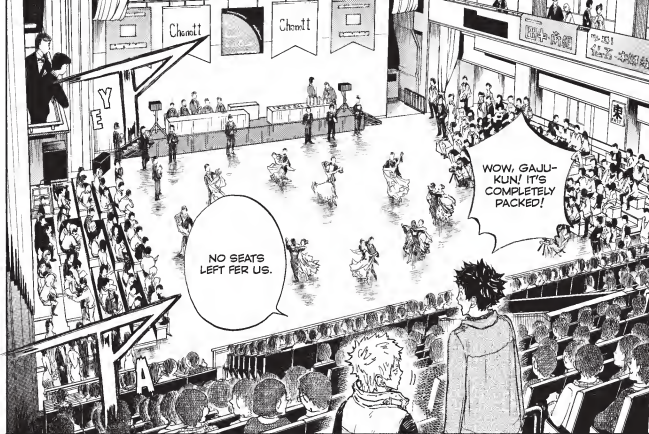
THE
COMPETITION
IS HELD AT—

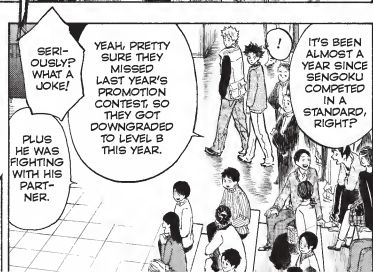


CRREEE

KORAKUEN
HALL...!

THE TOKYO DANCE GRAND PRIX
PRO STANDARD - SECOND ROUND





FIFTH HEAT.

QUICKSTEP.

THERE HE IS!

WHA...?!

OH!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM IN A SUIT AND TAILS BEFORE!

S... SENGOKU-SAN REALLY STANDS OUT!

YUP.

PROBABLY 'CAUSE HE'S SO HUGE.

SAY WHAT ...?!

WOAH...

NO WAY— WITH THAT CLEAN-CUT HAIRDO...?!

...YOU LITTLE PUNK. YER HIS STUDENT ...

I...I REALLY HOPE HE WINS!

GOOD LUCK, SENGOKU-SAN!

SERIOUSLY?!

BTMP

BTMP

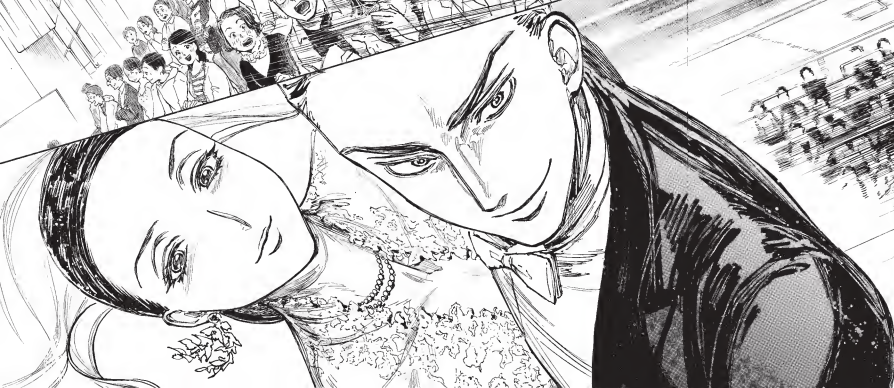


...AND
YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT KINDA
DANCER HE
IS?

WO

O

HMP

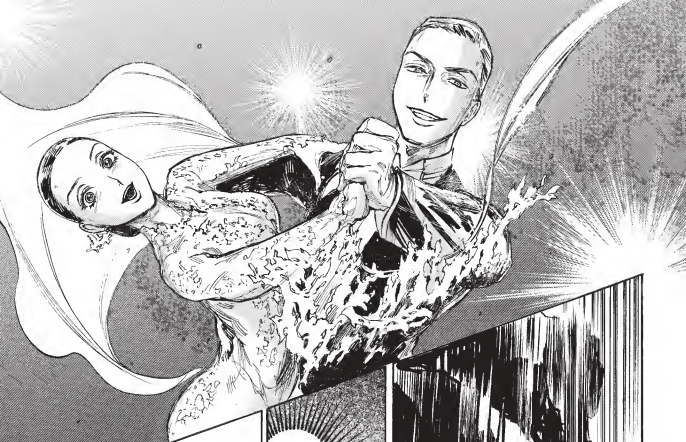


THEY
CAME
AFTER
ALL.

WE'LL
LOOK AT
THAT.







WHAT
WAS
THAT...?!

FOR A
SECOND,
MY HEAD
STARTED
SPINNING...



...?!

OH...

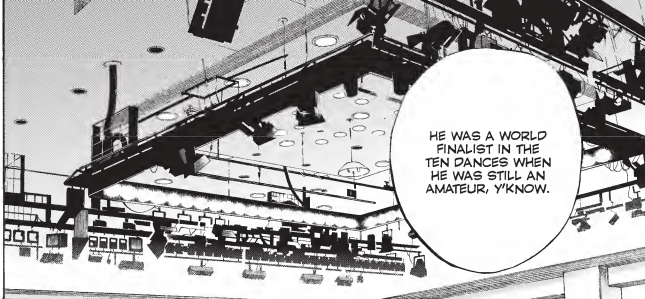


STOMP

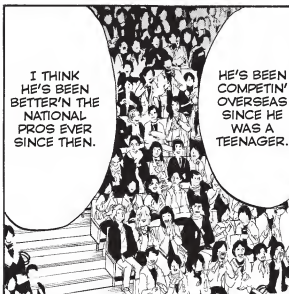


WOAH
WATCH
YOURSELF

WOBBLE



HE WAS A WORLD
FINALIST IN THE
TEN DANCES WHEN
HE WAS STILL AN
AMATEUR, Y'KNOW.



I THINK
HE'S BEEN
BETTER'N THE
NATIONAL
PROS EVER
SINCE THEN.

HE'S BEEN
COMPETIN'
OVERSEAS
SINCE HE
WAS A
TEENAGER.

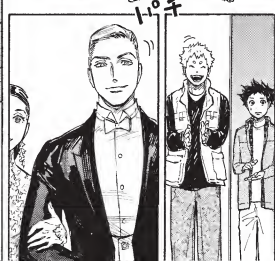
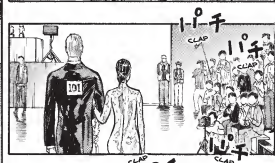


HE'S THE
ONLY
DANCER IN
JAPAN...

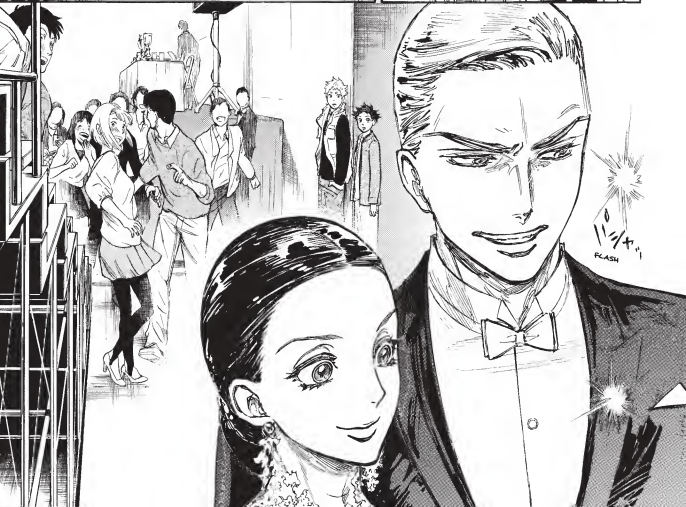
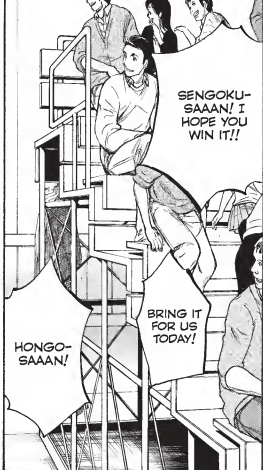


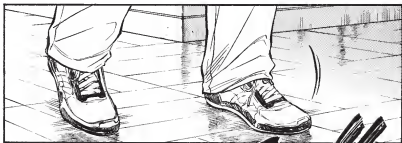
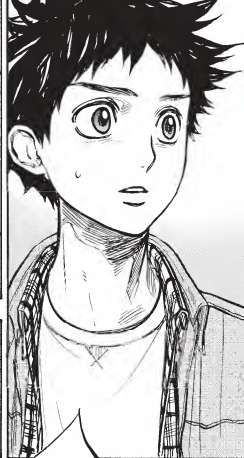
"I REALLY
HOPE HE
WINS"?

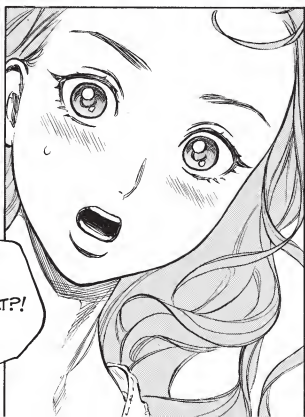
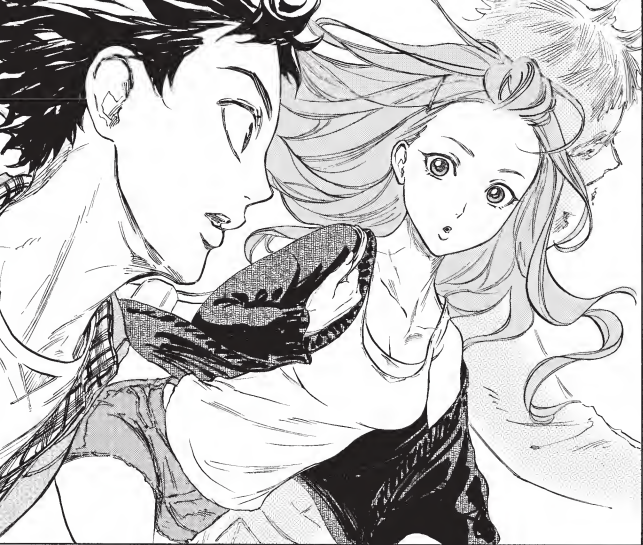
WHAT WAS I
THINKING?





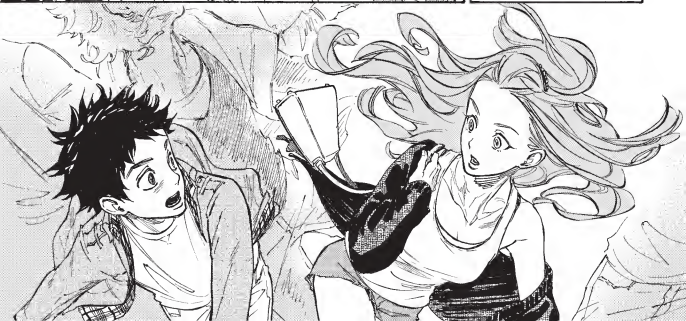
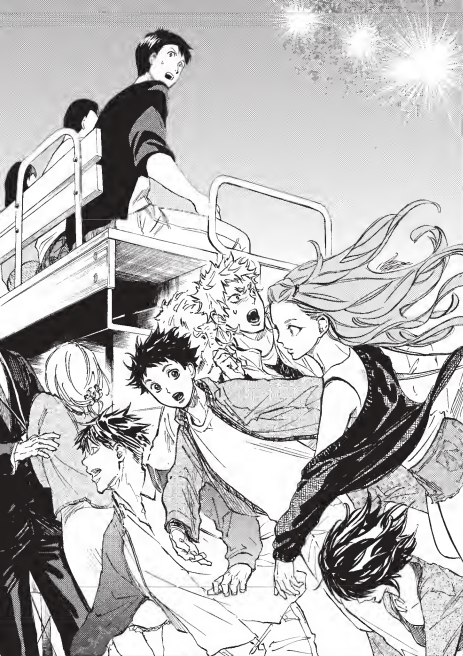






WHAT?!

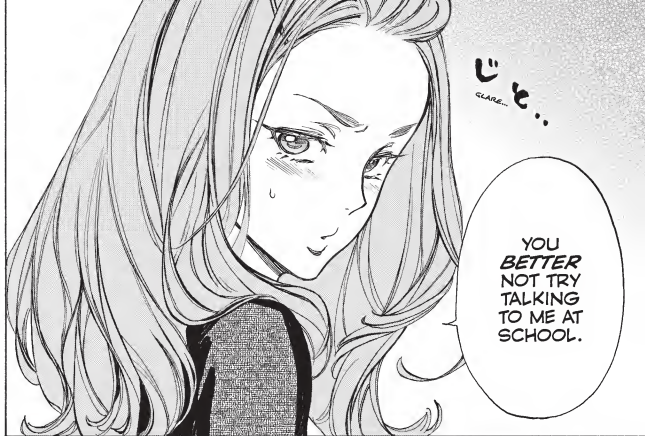
Heat 1B: END





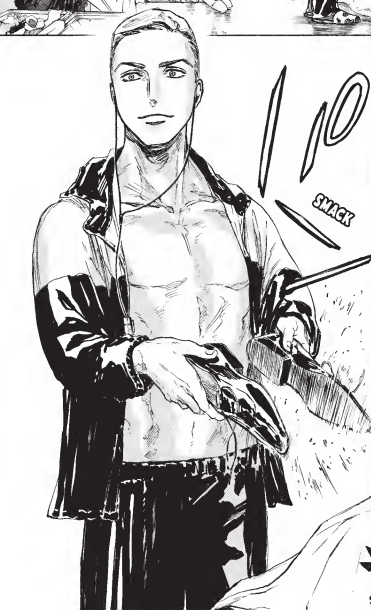
Heat 19 Lessons





SIGNS: FIGHT! TEAM AMANO; WE'RE GONNA WIN IT! TEAM SENGOKU/HONGO



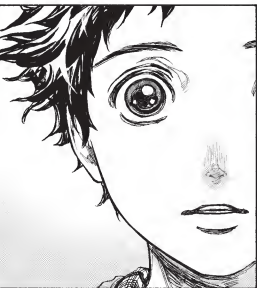




I TRULY...
CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW LUCKY
I WAS.
I FEEL
GUILTY.



IT'S
INSANE
THAT
SOMEONE
LIKE HIM
SPENT
TWO
MONTHS
TEACHING
ME.



I'M
ONLY
DOIN'
THIS
ONCE.

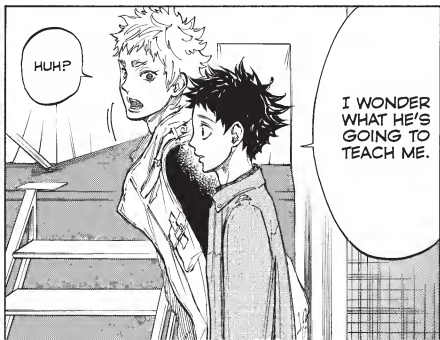
HEY
TURN
THIS
WAY



HE TOOK
SO MUCH
TIME TO
HELP ME,
DESPITE
HOW BUSY
HE WAS...



LIKE HE
DID THAT
DAY-



HUH?

I WONDER
WHAT HE'S
GOING TO
TEACH ME.

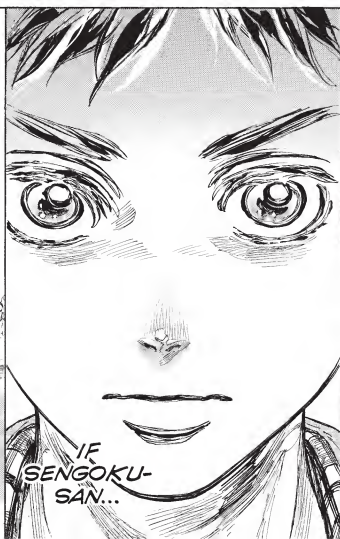


GET A
GOOD
LOOK.



...IS TAKING
TIME TO HELP
ME AGAIN...

THIRD
HEAT.



IF
SENGOKU-
SAN...



...



THERE'S
NO WAY
I'M
MISSING
A THING.

THIS
IS A
LESSON.



PREPARATION
STEP TO THE
LEFT!

LEAD IN WITH
A NATURAL
SPIN TURN.

...

SSST

PREPARATION
STEP TO THE
LEFT!

LEAD IN WITH
A NATURAL
SPIN TURN.

...

SSST

PREPARATION
STEP TO THE
LEFT!

LEAD IN WITH
A NATURAL
SPIN TURN.

...

SSST

PREPARATION
STEP TO THE
LEFT!

LEAD IN WITH
A NATURAL
SPIN TURN.

...

SSST



HIS
STRIDE
IS SO
LONG!

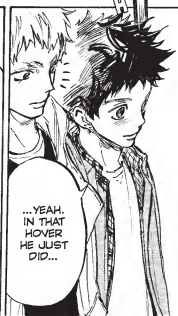
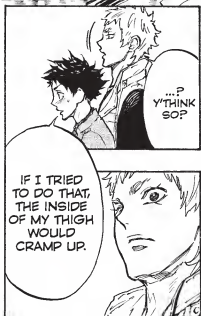
THE
FREEDOM
OF HIS
FOOTWORK
EVEN AS HE
HOLDS THAT
POSTURE...

IT ALL
COMES
FROM...

HIS
UPPER
BODY IS
HOLDING A
GORGEOUS
PLANK.

SENGOKU-
SAN SAYS...

...THE
BEAUTY OF
A WALTZ IS
DETERMINED
BY THE SIZE
OF THE
SWINGS.





HE
DEFINITELY
SEES
SOMETHIN'.

GOTTA
WORK ON
MY GAZE
STRENGTH
...



HE JUST
STARTED
MUTTERIN'
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...

...?!

PRICE
PRICE
PRICE
PRICE
PRICE

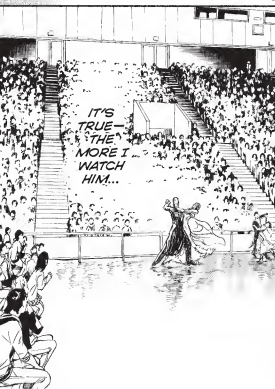
BUT IF I DID
THAT, MY
BACK WOULD
CURVE OUT.

MAYBE HIS
SOLAR
PLEXUS IS
PULLING HIS
LEG UP.



SENGOKU
REALLY IS A
GIANT!

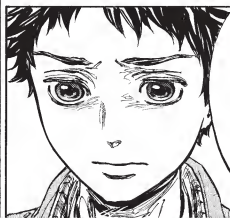
I WONDER HOW
TALL HE IS...?



IT'S
TRUE—
THE
MORE I
WATCH
HIM...

THE OTHER
COUPLES
LOOK SO
SMALL NEXT
TO THEM.
KINDA FEEL
BAD FOR
THEM!

THEY'RE
SO EYE-
CATCHING.

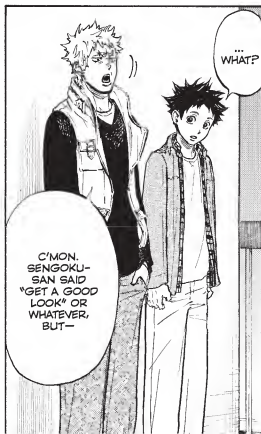


THE STANDARD
STYLES DO
OVERWHELMINGLY
FAVOR DANCERS
WITH BIG BODIES,
I SUPPOSE.



"YOU'LL
NEVER
ACHIEVE
THIS."

...THE
MORE
I FEEL
LIKE HE'S
TELLING
ME...

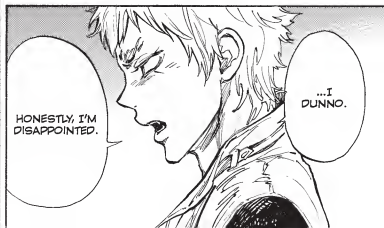


...
WHAT?

C'MON.
SENGOKU-
SAN SAID
"GET A GOOD
LOOK" OR
WHATEVER,
BUT—



EVEN IF
HE JUST
MEANS I'LL
NEVER GET
TALLER...



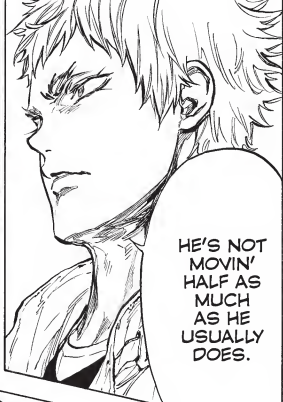
HONESTLY, I'M
DISAPPOINTED.

...I
DUNNO.

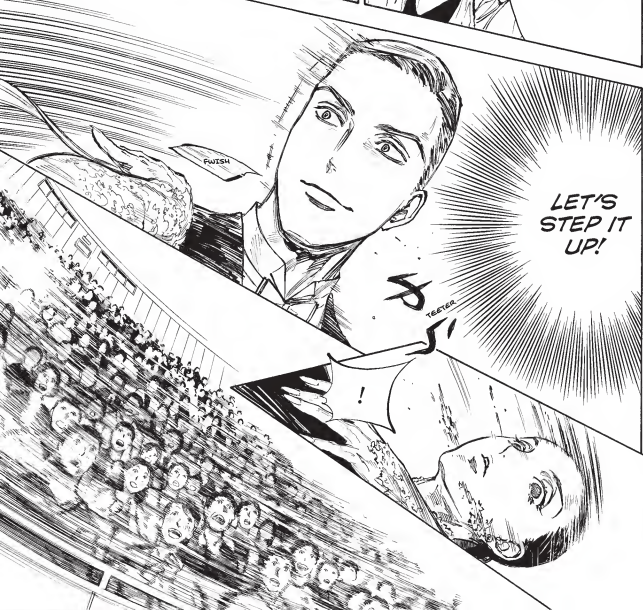


OKAY.

THAT'S
ALL THE
FUN I CAN
HAVE WITH
THAT RIGID
BEGINNER-
LEVEL
STUFF.



HE'S NOT
MOVIN'
HALF AS
MUCH
AS HE
USUALLY
DOES.



FWTSH

LET'S
STEP IT
UP!

TESTER





THAT'S THE
SENGOKU-SAN I
KNOW...!

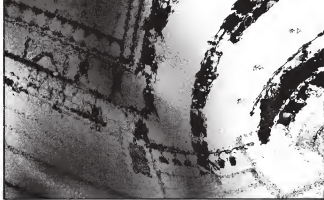
STAGGER

THERE'S
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
ABOUT HOW
THE SENGOKU
PAIR IS
MOVING,
COMPARED
TO THE OTHER
COUPLES.

LOOK
CLOSER.

HIS BODY'S
OFF TO ONE
SIDE, AND HIS
HEAD POSI-
TIONING IS
SWAYING...

ple



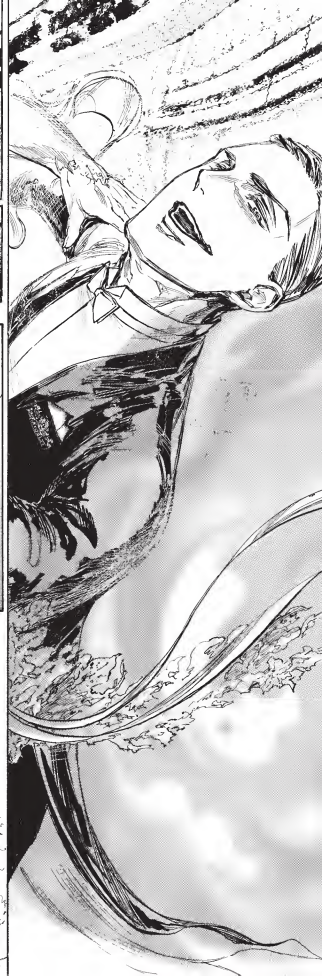
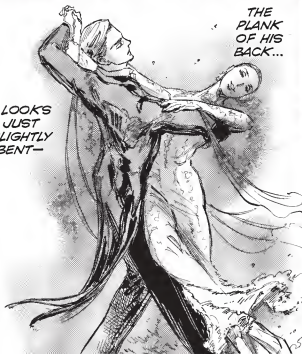
I
DON'T
KNOW
ANY
DANCE
LIKE
THIS.

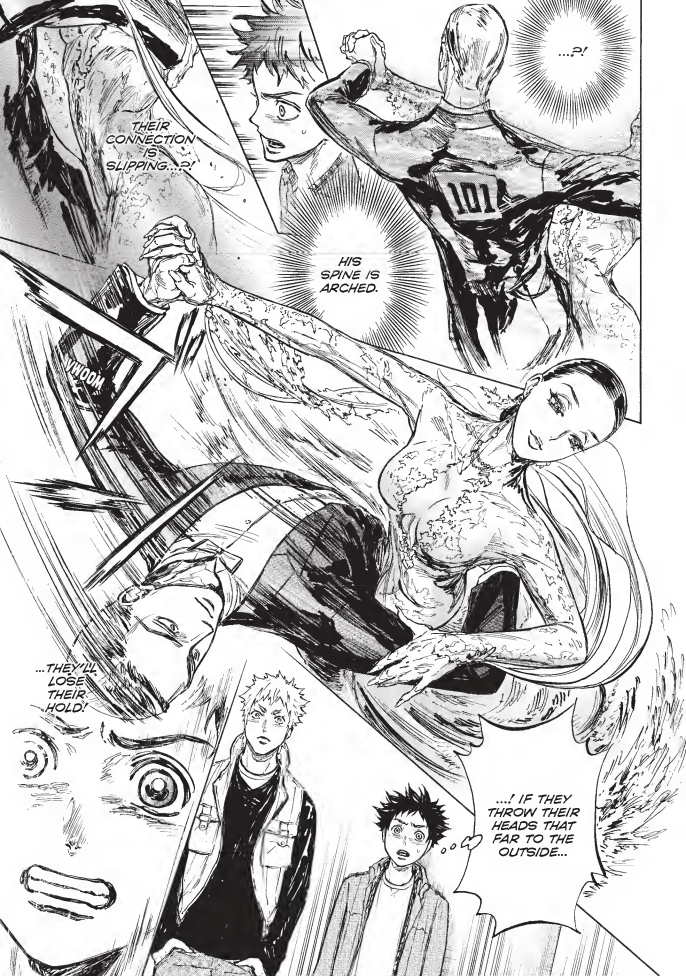


...

THE
PLANK
OF HIS
BACK...

...LOOKS
JUST
SLIGHTLY
BENT—





THEIR
CONNECTION
IS
SLIPPING...?!

HIS
SPINE IS
ARCHED.

...THEY'LL
LOSE
THEIR
HOLD!

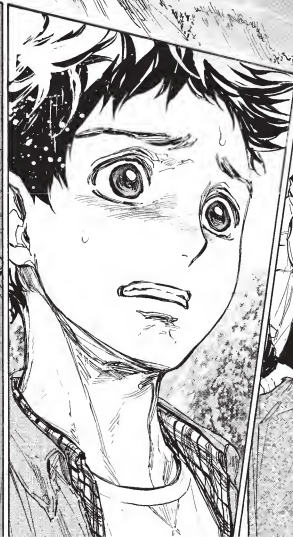
...! IF THEY
THROW THEIR
HEADS THAT
FAR TO THE
OUTSIDE...



IT'S
PERFECT

ギ
ハ
イ
ク
レ
ン
ク

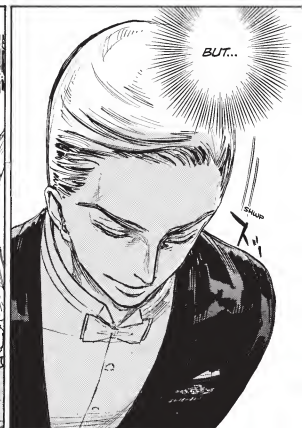
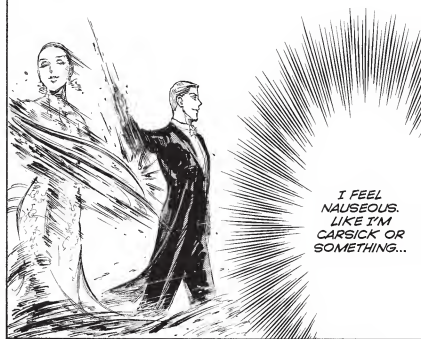
AND
YET—

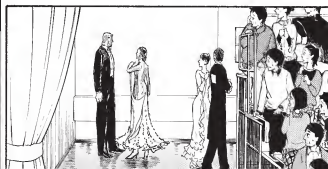
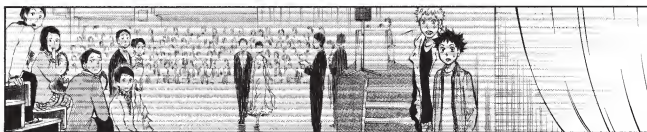
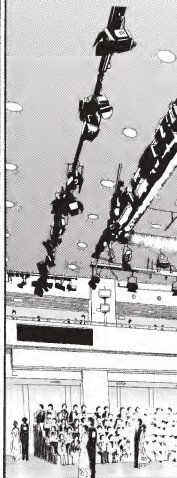


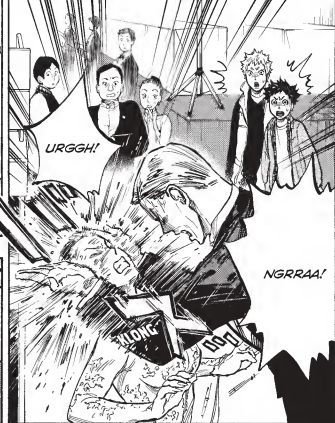
WAKE
YOU'RE
SWEEPING
OVER THE
DANCE
FLOOR.

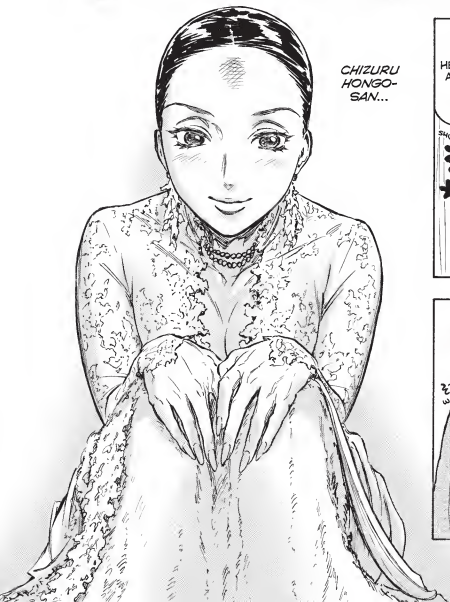
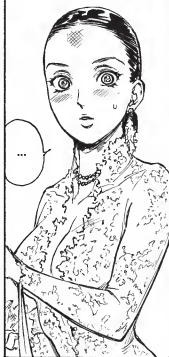
THE
WALTZ IS
SMOOTH,
LIKE A
CURRENT
ROLLING
DOWN A
RIVER.



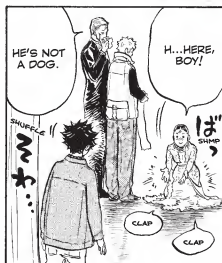


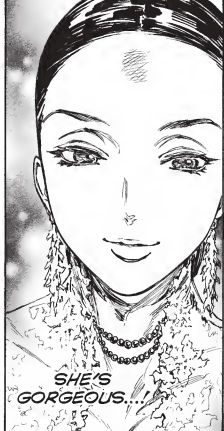
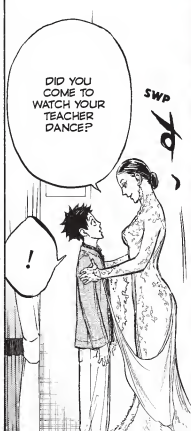


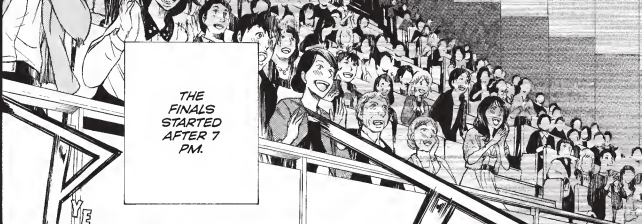




CHIZURU
HONGO-
SAN...







THE
FINALS
STARTED
AFTER 7
P.M.



THE
AUDIENCE
GAVE THEM
A STANDING
Ovation.



THE FLOOR
WAS ON FIRE.
NOTHING
LIKE THE
PRELIMINARY
ROUNDS.



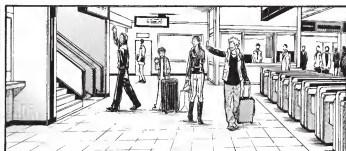
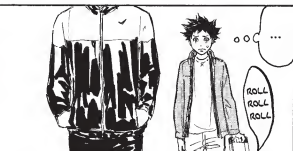
AND OF
COURSE...



I WAS JUST
OVER-
WHELMED...

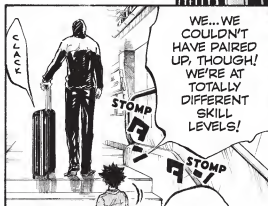


I DIDN'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
SENGOKU-
SAN'S
DANCE.





YOU WENT
BACK TO
SHADOW
WORK,
RIGHT?



WE...WE
COULDN'T
HAVE PAIRED
UP, THOUGH!
WE'RE AT
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
SKILL
LEVELS!



YOU'RE NOT
BEING FAIR TO
MAKO-CHAN
WHEN YOU
SAY THAT!



EVEN
THOUGH
YOU
PROBABLY
COULDA
STAYED WITH
MAKO IF
YOU'D LOST
THE TENPEI
CUP.

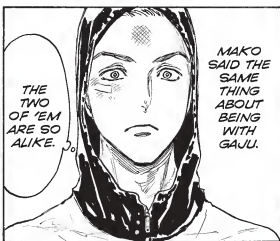
WHAT A
WASTE.

GLOW



SHE WAS TOO NICE TO TELL ME THAT I WAS HOLDING HER BACK... I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT!

BESIDES...



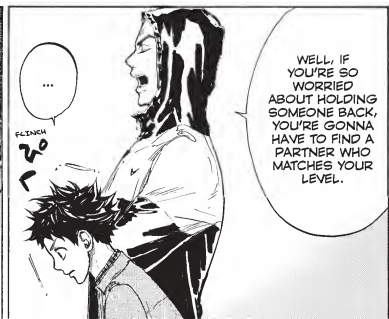
THE TWO OF 'EM ARE SO ALIKE.

MAKO SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT BEING WITH GAJU.

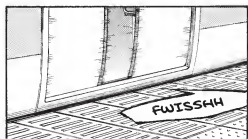
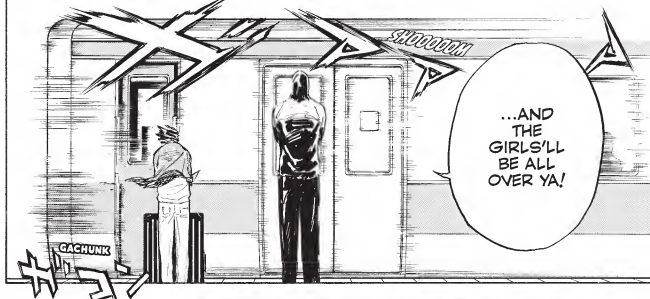


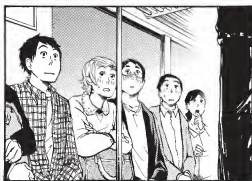
BUT EITHER WAY, YOU BETTER KEEP DANCING!

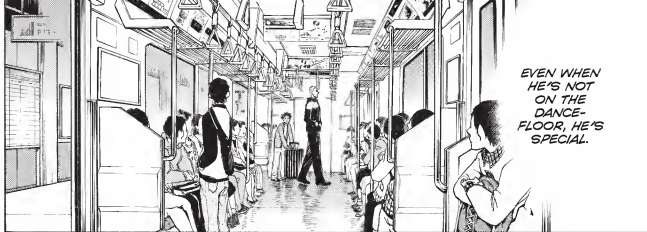
SO ONE DAY YOU'LL GET GOOD...



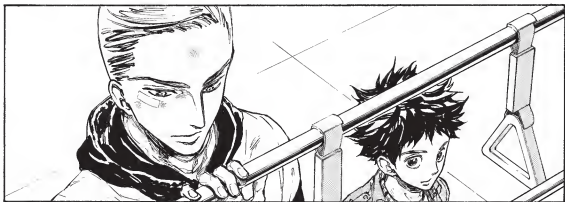
WELL, IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT HOLDING SOMEONE BACK, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND A PARTNER WHO MATCHES YOUR LEVEL.





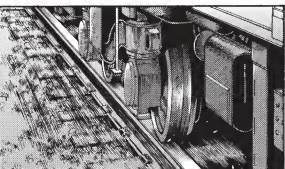
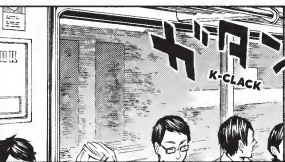


EVEN WHEN
HE'S NOT
ON THE
DANCE-
FLOOR, HE'S
SPECIAL.



...WAS
HOW
TO
STAND.

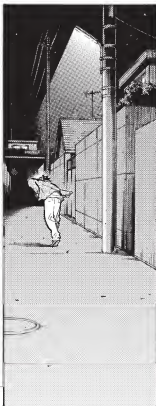
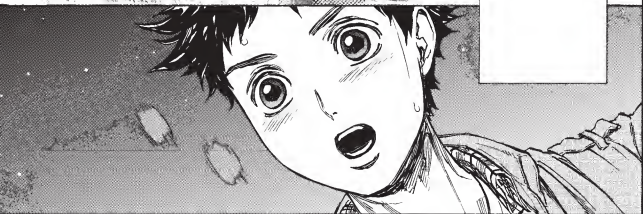
THE VERY
FIRST
THING HE
TAUGHT
ME...

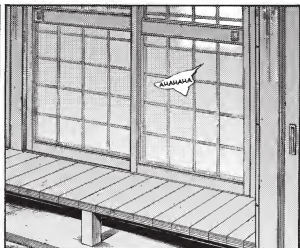






WHAT WAS
HE TRYING
TO TEACH
ME?



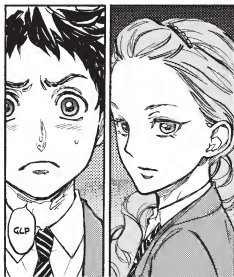


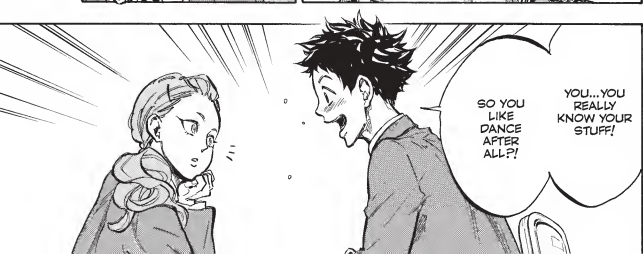
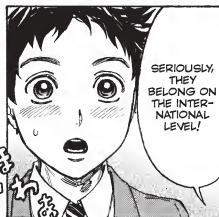
WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



I JUST
STARTED
AT THIS
NEW
SCHOOL...

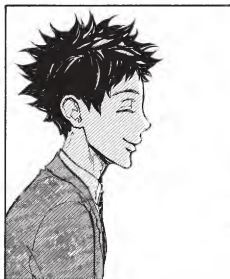






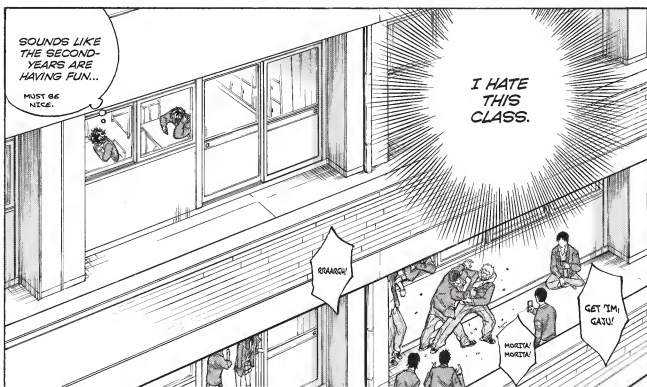


YER,
SUCH A
LOSER.



WHAT?
GIMME A
BREAK!

I JUST
THINK
SENGOKU
AND
HONGO
ARE HOT.



SOUNDS LIKE
THE SECOND-
YEARS ARE
HAVING FUN...

MUST BE
NICE.

I HATE
THIS
CLASS.

RRRAACH!

HORITA!
HORITA!

GET 'IM,
GATU!

DON'T YOU
THINK THAT'S
AWFUL, JINBO-
SAN?

BEFORE I
STARTED,
I LOOKED
DOWN ON
IT TOO.

WHAAAT?

A LOT OF
PEOPLE SEE
BALLROOM
DANCING THAT
WAY, THOUGH.
Y'KNOW?

HAHA

SAYING
A SPORT
SOMEONE
CARES ABOUT
IS "LAME"?!
OR THAT
THEY'RE A
"LOSER"?!

I THOUGHT IT
WAS A HOBBY
FOR RICH,
MIDDLE-AGED
PEOPLE, OR
IT WAS ONLY
SOMETHING
YOU SAW IN
MOVIES.

URK

I STARTED
DANCING TO
GET A GIRL,
TOO. BUT WE
WERE IN A
COUPLE FOR
THREE YEARS
AND I GOT
NOWHERE!

I...I
WASN'T...

JAB

YOU
SCAMP!

I MEAN,
WHEN
YOU FIRST
STARTED,
YOU WERE
OBVIOUSLY
IN IT FOR
SHIZUKU-
CHAN. AM I
WRONG?



EASY
DECISION
IF SHE'S A
LOOKER,
THOUGH.

AND THEN
YOU MEET UP
AND DANCE
TOGETHER A
COUPLE TIMES
AND DECIDE
IF YOU'RE A
MATCH.



GEEZ, IT'S
SO HARD
TO FORM
A PAIR.

W-WOULD
YOU MIND
NOT MEN-
TIONING
THAT?!

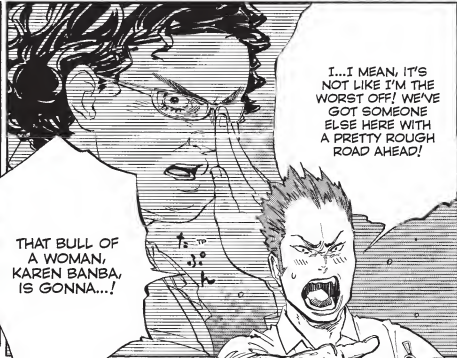


OH NO—
ANOTHER
ONE FELL
THROUGH?

DIDN'T YOU
GET SET
UP WITH
SOMEONE
LAST WEEK,
JINBO-
SENSEI?

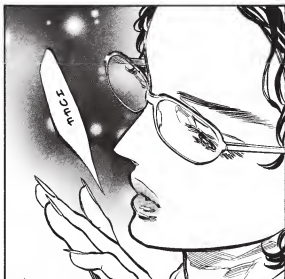


WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
CALLING
NAMES?



THAT BULL OF
A WOMAN,
KAREN BANBA,
IS GONNA...!

I...I MEAN, IT'S
NOT LIKE I'M THE
WORST OFF! WE'VE
GOT SOMEONE
ELSE HERE WITH
A PRETTY ROUGH
ROAD AHEAD!



IS THAT REALLY
番場さんなの
BANBA-SAN...?!
おお~!!?

AAAAAT?!

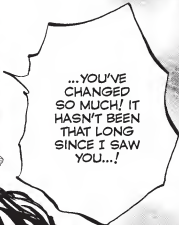


THERE'S
NO WAY
BANBA...



IT'S
NICE
TO SEE
YOU
AGAIN.

SHE'S A
FAKE!!



...YOU'VE
CHANGED
SO MUCH! IT
HASN'T BEEN
THAT LONG
SINCE I SAW
YOU...!

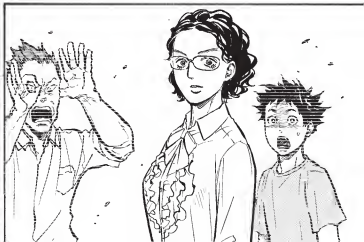


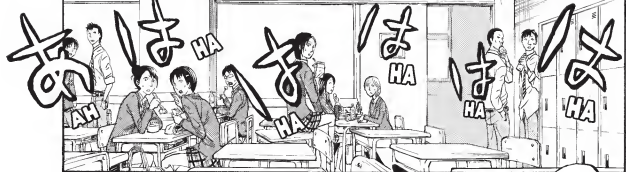
WH—



QUIET,
BALDY.

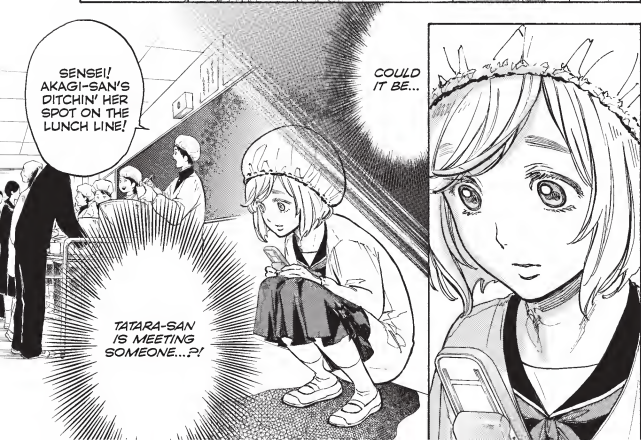
...COULD
BE SUCH A
LOOKER...

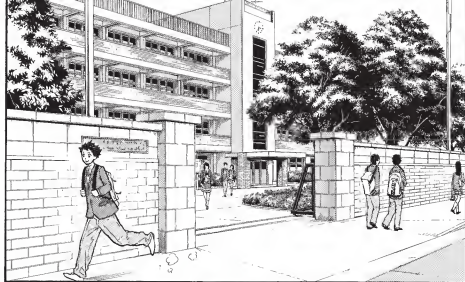




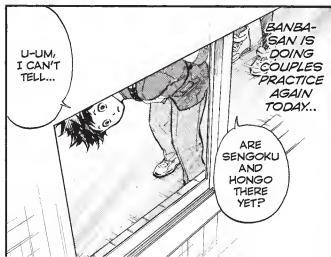


THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO BE PLAYIN' AROUND! WE GOT A COMPETITION THIS WEEK! YA AIN'T PLANNIN' ON SKIPPIN' OUT ON THAT, ARE YA?!





SIGN: OGASAWARA DANCE STUDIO B1



I FOLLOWED YOU! ♥

HEENCE

WHAT?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HAUGH

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT COVER?!

BUT I WANT TO GET AN AUTOGRAPH...

THAT DOESN'T BELONG ON A DANCE MAGAZINE!!

The Newest Styles in Dance
DANCE FOCUS
Kename Sengoku & Chizuru Hongo
SPECIAL EDITION:
BUILDING MUSCLE
ENLARGE YOUR BODY
TO BE A DANCESTAR

PLEASE STOP LOOKING AT THEM LIKE THAT!!

I WONDER IF THEY'RE DATING.

THEY LOOK LIKE MODELS.

!! SHE WAS LISTENING TO US?!

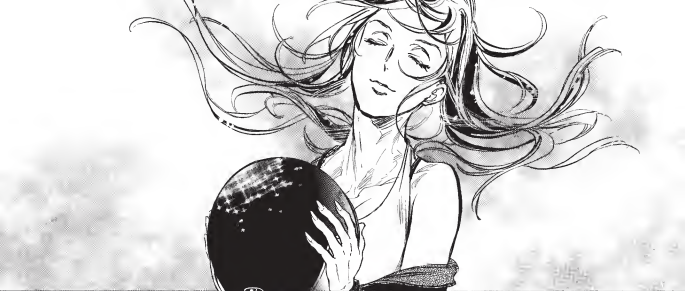
WELL, I HEARD AKAGI-SAN MENTION "SENGOKU-SAN" AT LUNCH, SO...



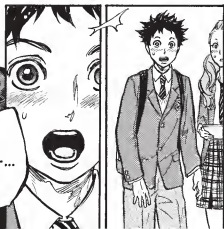
I THOUGHT MAYBE I WAS BEING A LITTLE PUSHY...

SO THEN SHE KNOWS ABOUT GAJUKUN TOO...





HONGO-SAN...?!





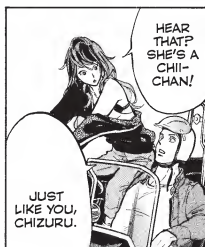
THAT'S NOT
WHAT THIS
IS...!!

HEY, STOP
CLINGING
TO ME...

E-e-e
YOU'RE SO CUTE!

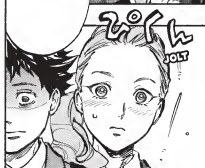
AWWW, YOU
BROUGHT
YOUR GIRL-
FRIEND! ♥

WAY
TO GO,
TAKARA-
KUN!



HEAR
THAT?
SHE'S A
CHII-
CHAN!

JUST
LIKE YOU,
CHIZURU.



HUH...
SO THAT
WAS HER
NAME...?



I-I...

I'M CHINATSU
HIYAMA.
I'M ONE OF
FUJITA-KUN'S
CLASSMATES.



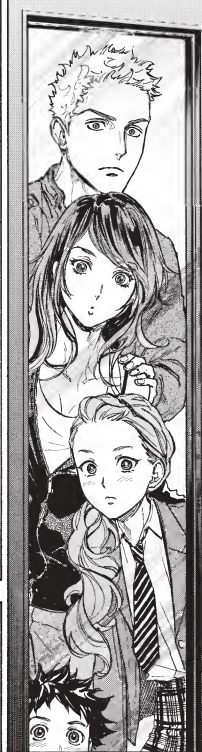
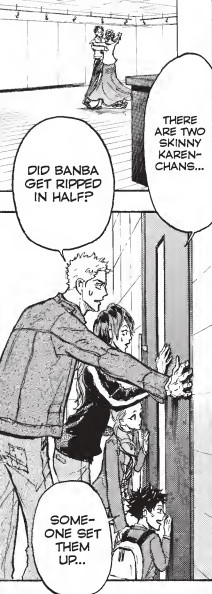
WELL?

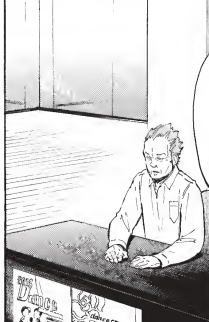
WHAT
WERE
YOU TWO
PEEPING
AT?



THE HELL
I WILL

YOU CAN
CALL ME
"CHII-CHAN"
IF YOU
WANT.

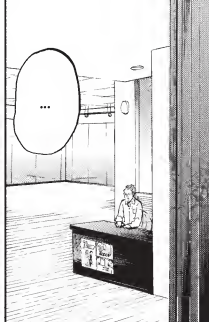




OLD BALDY
LOOKS SO
WITHERED
NOW.



I
DUNNO
...



...



PLEASE,
LET IT BE
SO.

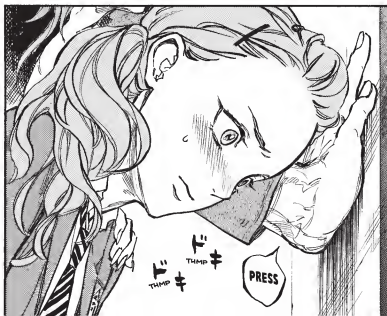
YES.
PLEASE—

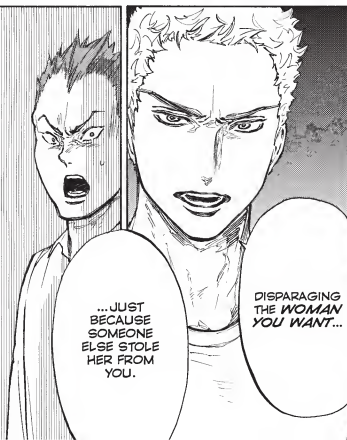
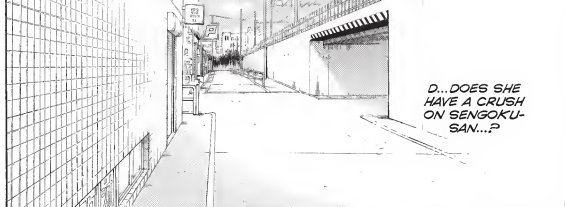


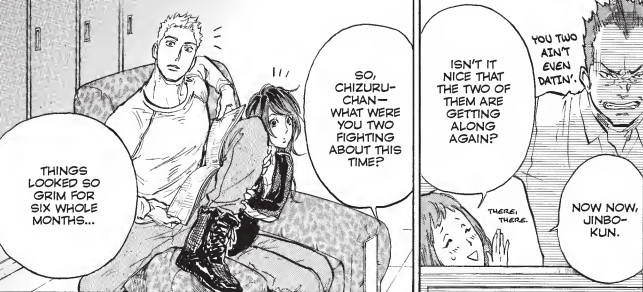
HM...P



YOU DON'T
THINK—
MAYBE
JINBO'S IN
LOVE WITH
KAREN-
CHAN!!







THINGS
LOOKED SO
GRIM FOR
SIX WHOLE
MONTHS...

SO,
CHIZURU-
CHAN—
WHAT WERE
YOU TWO
FIGHTING ABOUT
THIS
TIME?

ISN'T IT
NICE THAT
THE TWO OF
THEM ARE
GETTING
ALONG
AGAIN?

YOU TWO
AIN'T
EVEN
DATIN'.

THERE,
THERE.

NOW NOW,
JINBO-
KUN.



NOTHIN'
TO GET
WORKED
UP OVER.

I ONLY
USED ALL
THE MONEY.

?!

OH, THAT.
KANAME
TOOK ALL
OUR PRIZE
MONEY
AND BLEW
IT AT A
PINO PUB*.

OH, I'M
ANGRY ALL
RIGHT!!

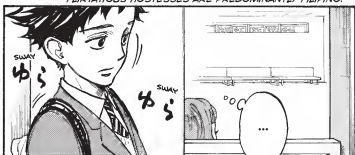
YOU CAN BE
EVEN ANGRIER
THAN ME,
HONGO-SAN!!

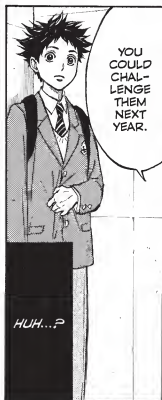
*SLANG TERM "FILIPINO PUB," A TYPE OF BAR WHERE THE FLIRTATIOUS HOSTESSES ARE PREDOMINANTLY FILIPINO.



HEY,
TATARA.

IT'S FUN
LISTENING
TO
SENGOKU-
SAN
AND THE
OTHERS
TALK,
BUT...





204
TWITCH

YOU GONNA
PRACTICE?

THMP!

...

カ
GRAB

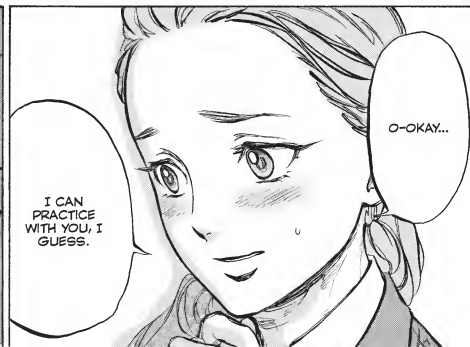
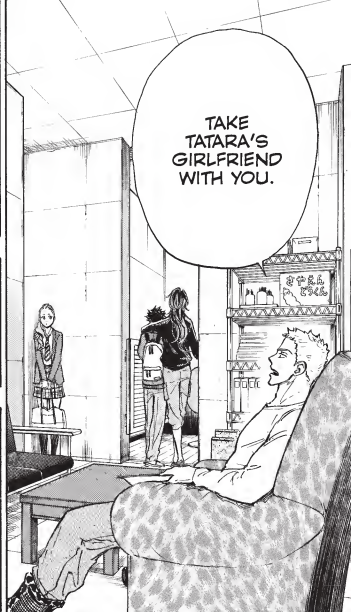
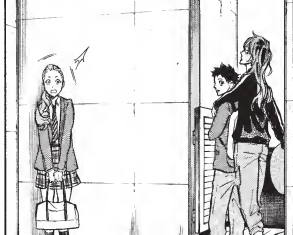
BLUSH

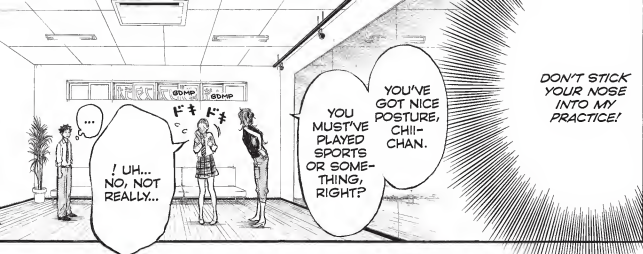
100
あ
あ

ARE YOU
SURE?!

HEY, YOU
TWO.

HOW
'BOUT I
WATCH
YOUR
SHADOW
WORK?





! UH...
NO, NOT
REALLY...

YOU
MUST'VE
PLAYED
SPORTS
OR SOME-
THING,
RIGHT?

YOU'VE
GOT NICE
POSTURE,
CHII-
CHAN.

DON'T STICK
YOUR NOSE
INTO MY
PRACTICE!



HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN
...?

W-WITH
HIM...?!

ALL RIGHT,
NOW TRY
DANCING
WITH
TATARA-
KUN!

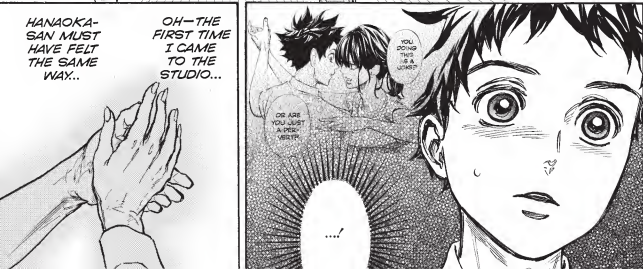
YUP,
JUST LIKE
THAT. YOU
LEARN
QUICK!

OKAY,
FOLLOW
MY STEPS.



LIKE I'M BEING
MOCKED FOR
ACTUALLY BEING
INTO THIS...

IT'S A LITTLE
AGGRAVATING...



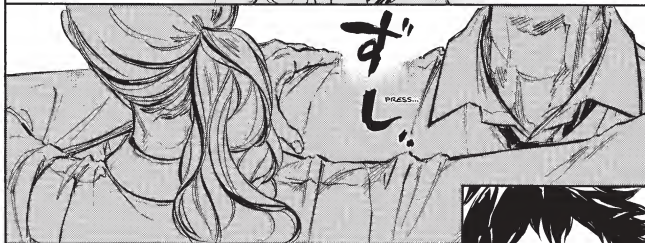
HANAOKA-
SAN MUST
HAVE FELT
THE SAME
WAY...

OH—THE
FIRST TIME
I CAME
TO THE
STUDIO...

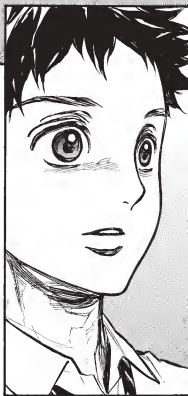
OR ARE
YOU JUST
A PRE-
ADULT?

YOU
DOING
THIS
IS A
JOKER?

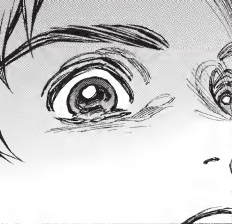
....!



...WHAP?



DID SHE JUST
PRESS AGAINST
ME...?



THUMP...

じゅわ...

THIS FEELS LIKE THE
TENSION DURING A
HOLD!

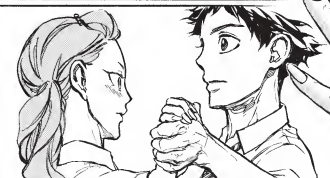
THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE.



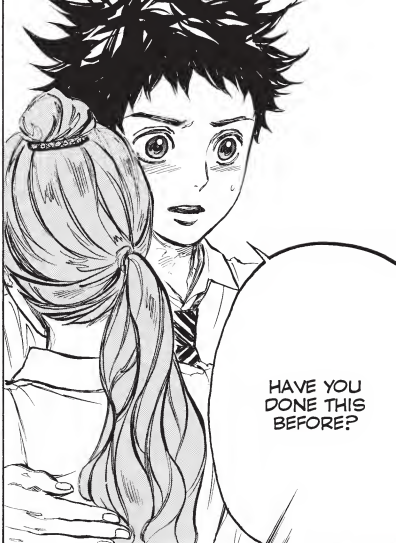
SHE...

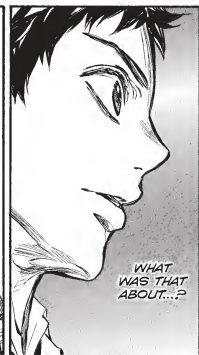
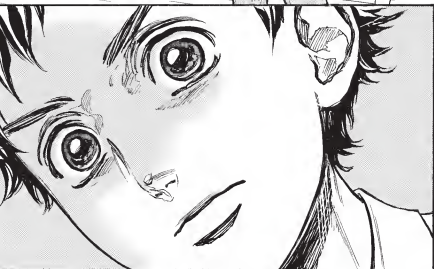
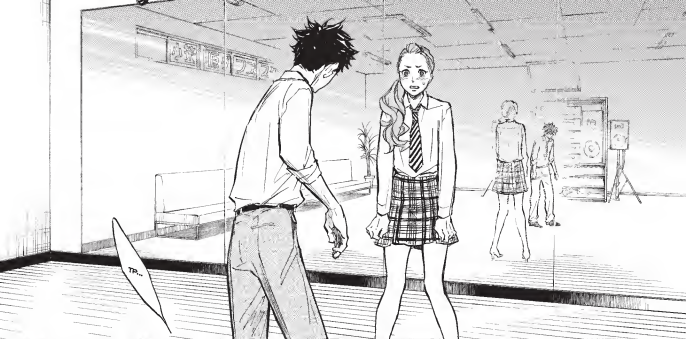
す...

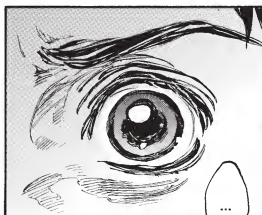
COULD
SHE
HAVE...

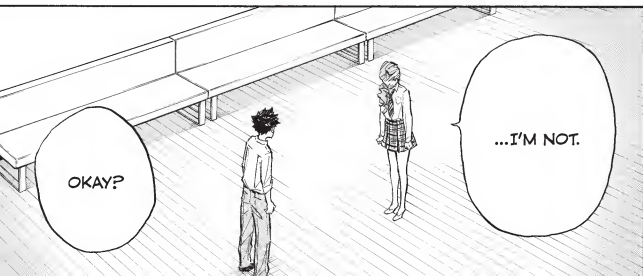
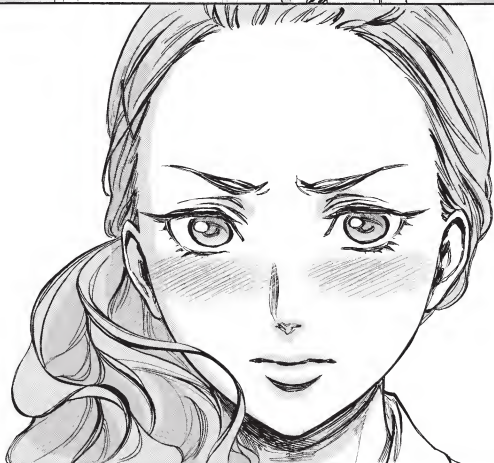
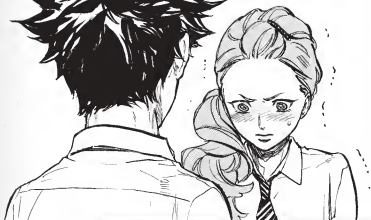


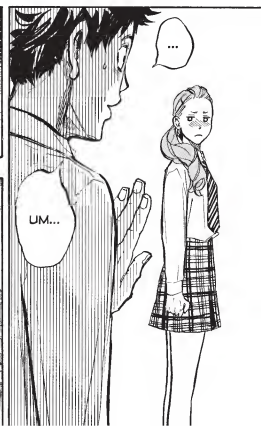
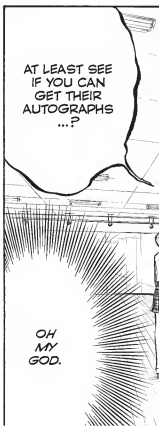
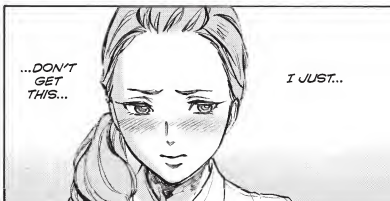
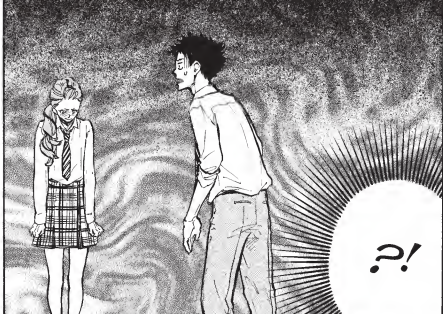
STP

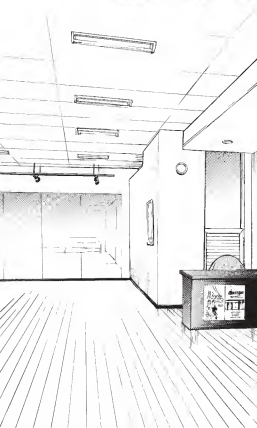
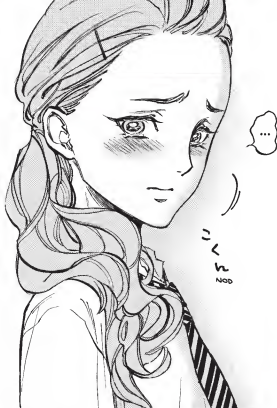












MAYBE
I WAS A
LITTLE
HARSH
BEFORE...



I'M A HUGE
FAN, CHIZURU-
SAN!! CAN
I PLEASE
HAVE YOUR
AUTOGRAPH?!

WHAT?!
SHE'S A
FAN OF
HONGO-
SAN?!

WHIP

303

SORRY!



NGH... I'M
SORRY, MY
HEART IS
RACING...

HUFF

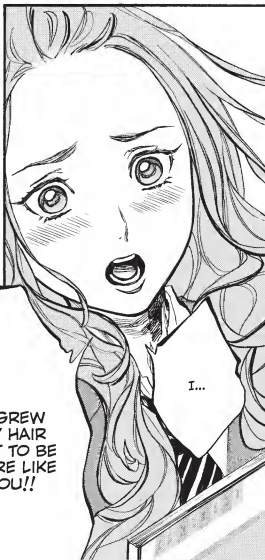
HOW
BIG A
FAN IS
SHE...?!

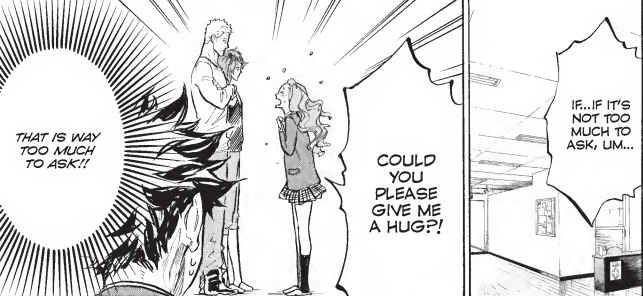
STARE...
—w...

...



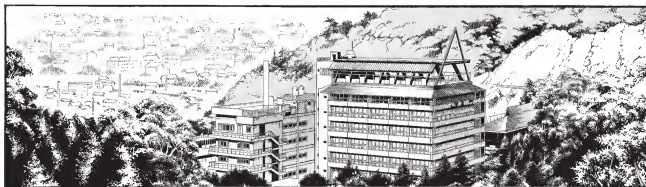
I GREW
MY HAIR
OUT TO BE
MORE LIKE
YOU!!



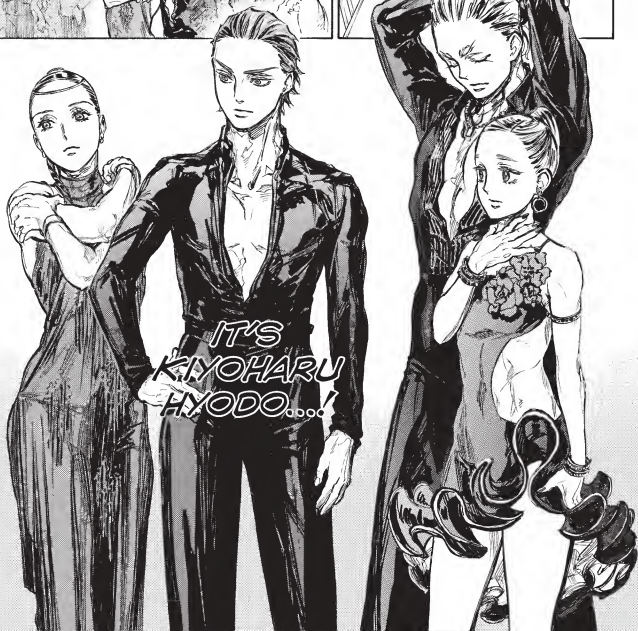


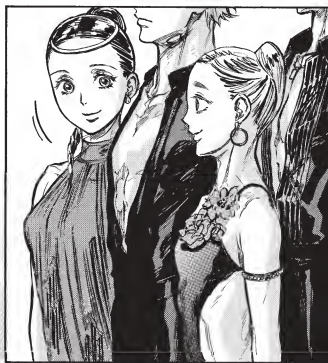
...TO
REACHING
THE STAGE
YOU'RE ALL
ON.

AND I'M
NOT SURE
I'M EVEN
CLOSE...



GRAND PRIX in Osaka







Heat 20: END

THE "DANCESPORT
GRAND PRIX IN OSAKA"
LATIN AMERICAN FINALS—



MAKO-
CHAAAAN!



GAJU!
LOOK
OVER
HERE!





Heat 21
Basic



AKAGI!!!

HEY ...
THEIR
ENERGY
SEEMS
DIFFERENT,
DOESN'T
IT?

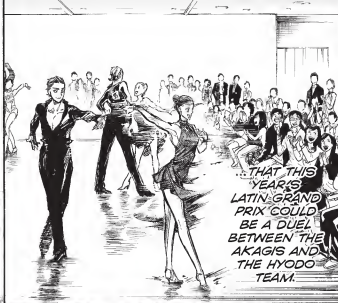


I ALWAYS
FELT LIKE THAT
COUPLE WAS
UNBALANCED.
THE PARTNER
BARELY MOVED
COMPARED TO
THE LEADER.

BUT THEY'VE
BECOME
A REALLY
ASSERTIVE
PAIR.



THEN
AGAIN—



...THAT THIS
YEAR'S
LATIN GRAND
PRIX COULD
BE A DUEL
BETWEEN THE
AKAGIS AND
THE HYODO
TEAM.



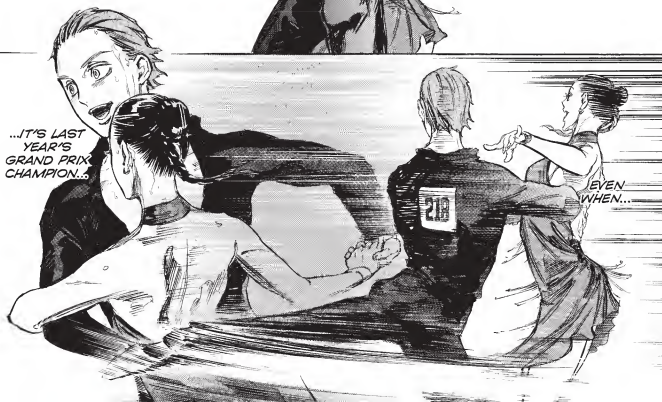
IT'S
POSSIBLE...

...

NO MATTER
HOW GOOD
THEY ARE.

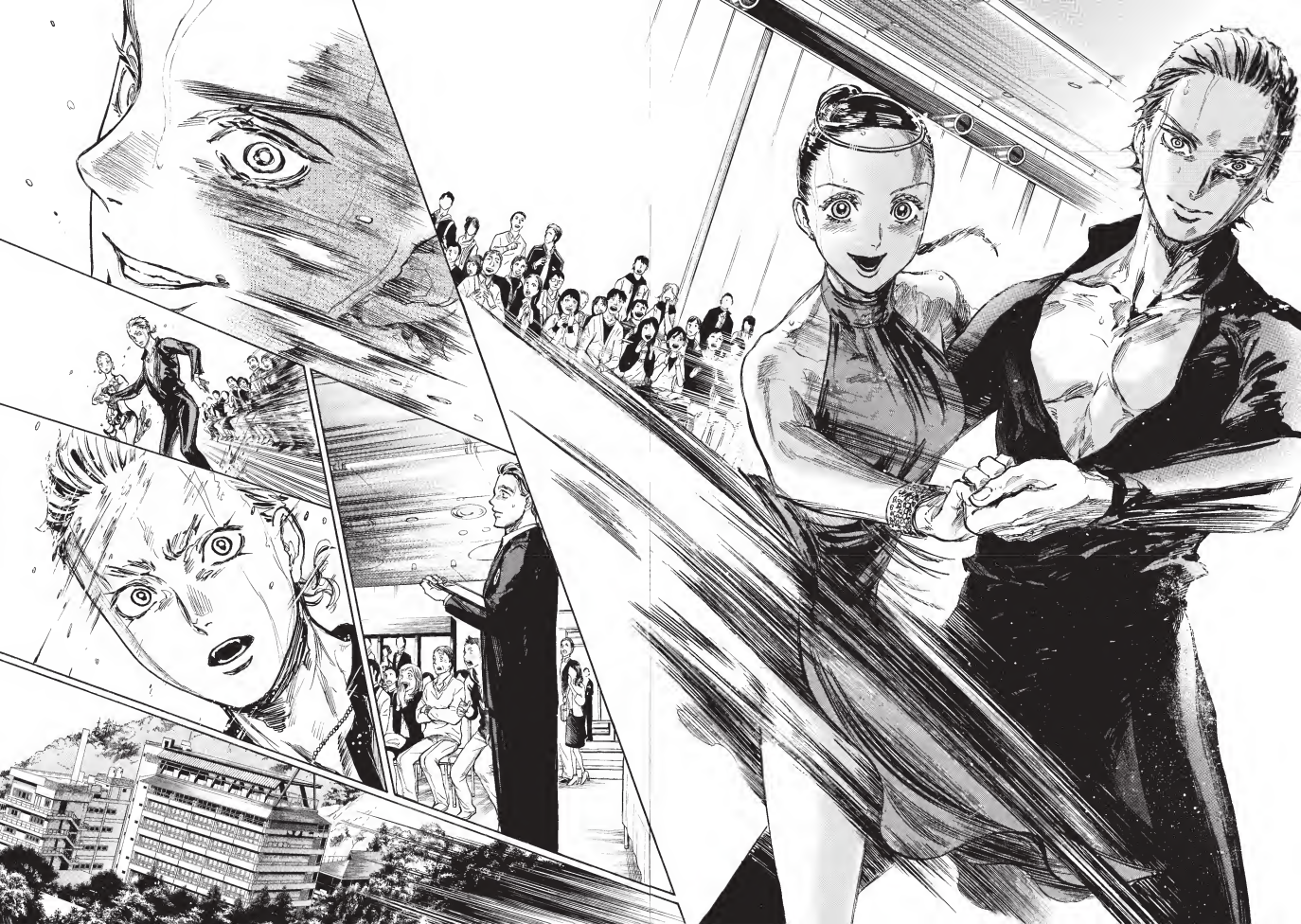


IT'S DIFFICULT
TO SCORE
COMPETITORS
WHO COMMIT
PENALTIES...



...IT'S LAST
YEAR'S
GRAND PRIX
CHAMPION...

EVEN
WHEN...





I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE FUNDAMEN-
TALS OF THE
MOVEMENTS.

OOO ...

ACHE
X

...

HUFF

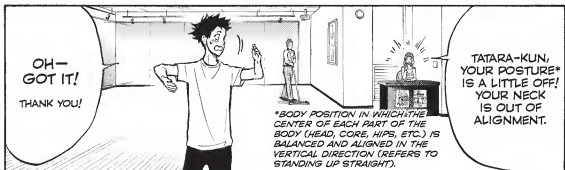
HUFF



BUT THE SECOND HALF—THAT WAS A DYNAMIC VARIATION I'VE NEVER SEEN. HIS AXIS WAS AT A CRAZY ANGLE.

THE FIRST HALF WAS A VARIATION BUILT AROUND BASICS I'VE SEEN BEFORE.

THE WALTZ SENGOKU-SAN SHOWED ME AT THE TOKYO GRAND PRIX—



OH—
GOT IT!

THANK YOU!

TATARA-KUN,
YOUR POSTURE*
IS A LITTLE OFF!
YOUR NECK
IS OUT OF
ALIGNMENT.

*BODY POSITION IN WHICH THE CENTER OF EACH PART OF THE BODY (HEAD, CORE, HIPS, ETC.) IS BALANCED AND ALIGNED IN THE VERTICAL DIRECTION (REFERS TO STANDING UP STRAIGHT).

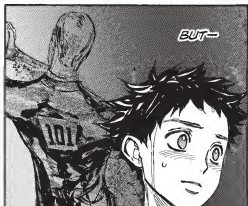


STAGGER

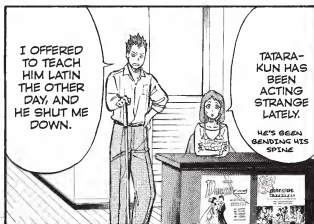
OOF!



STRAIN



BUT—



I OFFERED TO TEACH HIM LATIN THE OTHER DAY, AND HE SHUT ME DOWN.

TATARA-KUN HAS BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY.

HE'S BEEN BENDING HIS SPINE

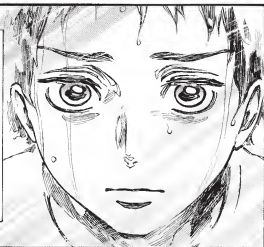
SENGOKU-SAN'S UPPER BODY WAS EVEN MORE TILTED—I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO FALL OVER.

IT'S LIKE HE'S
FORGOTTEN
EVERYTHING...

ALL THE
BASICS HE'S
DONE UP TIL
NOW...



WHY DID
SENGOKU-
SAN SHOW
ME A DANCE
LIKE THAT?



I
SHOULDN'T
BE ASKING
"WHY."

NO...

...

SENGOKU-
SAN IS
OVERSEAS
RIGHT NOW
TAKING
LESSONS.

IF I DON'T
WORK
THROUGH
THIS BY
THE TIME
HE GETS
BACK...

HE GAVE
ME SOME-
THING TO
LEARN...!

...

OBVIOUSLY
HE WANTED
ME TO DO
IT...!

I DON'T
WANT TO
TELL HIM
"I CAN'T
DO IT."





...
DIDN'T YOU
HAVE A
COMPETITION
TODAY,
GAJU-KUN?

HUH?

WHAT?



HE CAME
BACK TO
COMPETITION
TODAY?!

OF
COURSE...
IT'S
BEEN SIX
MONTHS
SINCE THE
PRINCE
MIKASA
CUP IN
OCTOBER.

WHAT A
RELIEF



MORON!
IT'S NOT
GREAT
FOR ME!

THAT'S
GREAT!
REALLY
GREAT!



HYODO-
KUN DID
WHAT?!



HYODO
SWEEP
ALL THE
CATEGORIES
AND GOT
FIRST PLACE.



DO YOU
THINK HIS
LEG IS
BETTER?



O-OH.
THAT'S
AMAZING!

HYODO-
KUN
REALLY IS
A GENIUS.



HE'S
STRONGER
THAN
HE WAS
BEFORE.



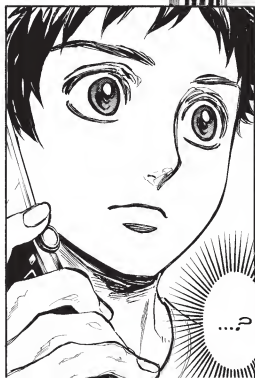


AND
WHAT
REALLY
BURNS
ME IS—

HE'S
GOTTEN A
LOT BIGGER
PHYSICALLY,
TOO.



HIS TIMING
WITH
SHIZUKU, THE
CRISPNESS
OF HIS
MOVEMENTS—
HE'S WAY
BETTER THAN
HE WAS AT
THE MIKASA...



...?



THEY MADE
IT ALL THE
WAY TO
THE FINALS
JUST
DOING THE
BASICS.

ACTUALLY,
SINCE THEY
GOT HIT WITH
PENALTIES,
THE SCORING
WAS REALLY
HARSH.

I THINK THEY
WERE TRYIN'
TO APPEAL TO
THE JUDGES,
SAYIN' 'HEY,
WE'RE TAKIN'
THE BASICS
SERIOUSLY,
SEE HOW
HARD WE'RE
WORKIN'?'

SHUT

...BUT
WOULDN'T
A BORING
ROUTINE
FLOP AT A
COMPETITION
...?

BY THE
WAY, HYODO
GAVE ME A
MESSAGE
FOR YOU...

HE DON'T
CARE 'BOUT
MY TIME AT
ALL.

WHAT?!

!

...

HEY, SAY
SOME-
THIN'.

YER MAKIN' IT
HARD TO TALK.

HYODO
HEARD
ABOUT
THAT AND
BUSTED OUT
LAUGHIN'.

FIRST TIME I
EVER SAW HIM
DO THAT.

AND THEN
HE SAID—

Y'KNOW
HOW
SHIZUKU
CALLED
YOU OUT
BEFORE?



I LOOK
FORWARD
TO THAT!

WHAT—

—IS HE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO?



FLINCH



YEAH...
HE'S OVER-
ESTIMATIN'
YA.

MAYBE HE
IS, BUT I...



SOUNDS LIKE
HE'S READY
TO COMPETE
AGAINST YA.



AND ANYWAY,
I STILL
HAVEN'T BEEN
ABLE TO FIND
A PARTNER...

AND NOW THE
GRAND PRIX IS
OVER... AND THE
PRINCE MIKASA
CUP IS A HUGE
COMPETITION. IT'S
NOT ON A LEVEL
WHERE I COULD
ENTER.

...I'M
STILL
TRYING
TO GET
INTO A
COMPETI-
TION.

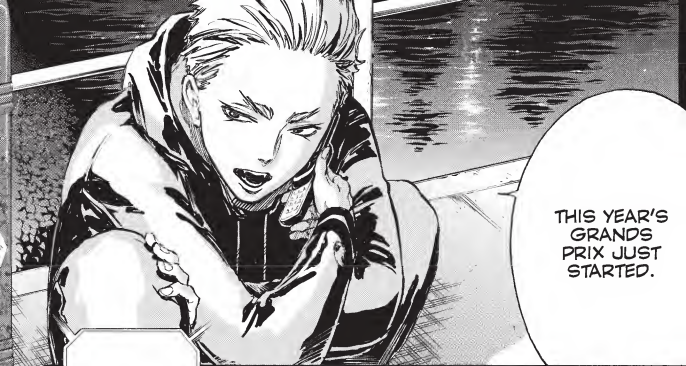


WHAT'RE YA
SAYIN'?

...?



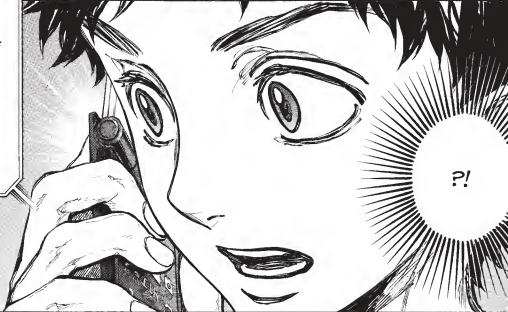
SO INSTEAD,
I'M FOCUSING
ON THE WALT-
SENGOKU-SAN
'WANTS ME TO
LEARN-



THIS YEAR'S
GRANDS
PRIX JUST
STARTED.

I'M GONNA
BE DOIN' THE
STANDARD
IN THE
KUMAMOTO
GRAND PRIX
TWO WEEKS
FROM NOW.

WHAT?!



?!

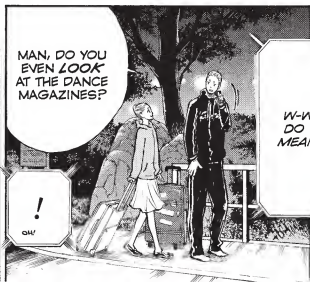


THEY
HAVE IT
LISTED IN
HERE,
GAJU-
KUN!

OH—I
FOUND
IT!

MAN, DO YOU
EVEN LOOK
AT THE DANCE
MAGAZINES?

!



W-WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?!

THIS YEAR
THEY'RE
IN OSAKA,
KUMAMOTO,
SHIZUOKA,
HOKKAIDO,
AND SENDAI—

THE
DANCESPORT
GRANDS PRIX
ARE HELD FIVE
TIMES A YEAR,
ROTATING
AROUND THE
COUNTRY.

JUST
LIKE
GAJU-
KUN
SAID.

FLAP

SEED
SEED

OKAY...
THIS IS WHY
HYODO-
KUN AND
GAJU-KUN
ARE GOING
TO THESE
COMPETITIONS.

Top-ranked competitors
(1st and 2nd place) as
determined by the total
of points gained at the
Prince Mikasa Cup and
the Grands Prix are se-
lected as representatives
for the WDSF title.

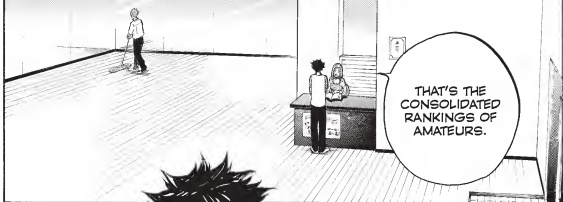
WOOO HAA

WHAT?! IF YOU
MAKE IT TO THE
SEMIFINALS IN
HOKKAIDO AND
SENDAI, YOU
CAN GET A SEED
AT THE PRINCE
MIKASA CUP!?

HM
...?

WHAT'S THE
LEVEL OF
THE PEOPLE
AT THESE
COMPETI-
TIONS?

DATE	GROUP	BLOCK	COMPETITION NAME	REQUIRED RANK									
				A	B	C	D	N	1	2	3	4	
5,	WHAT'S THIS TABLE....?		DanceSport Grand Prix in Kumamoto Qualifier to represent in WDSF World Standard Qualifier to represent in WDSF World Senior Latin	S	1	1	1	1					
				L	1	1	1	1					
5,			42nd Shiga DS Competition	S		1	1	1			1	1	
				L		1	1	1			1	1	
5,			16th Chiba DS Qualifying Competition	S	1		1	1					
				L	1		1	1					



THAT'S THE
CONSOLIDATED
RANKINGS OF
AMATEURS.



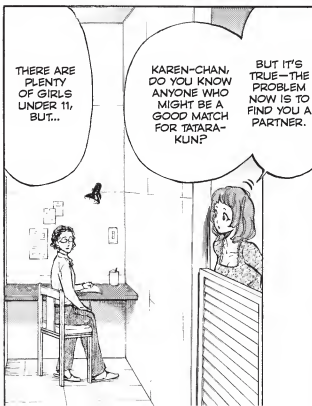
YOU GET
INTO LEVEL D
IF YOU WIN A
NOVICE COM-
PETITION.

DO YOU
WANT TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
GRAND
PRIX,
TATARA-
KUN?

RANKED
D OR
ABOVE?

JUST SO
YOU KNOW,
GAJU-
KUN IS AN
A-LEVEL
DANCER.

THIS TABLE
MEANS "THE
GRAND PRIX
IS A MAJOR
COMPETITION
WHERE DANCERS
RANKED D OR
ABOVE CAN
PARTICIPATE."



THERE ARE
PLENTY OF
GIRLS
UNDER 11,
BUT...

KAREN-CHAN,
DO YOU KNOW
ANYONE WHO
MIGHT BE A
GOOD MATCH
FOR TATARA-
KUN?

BUT IT'S
TRUE—THE
PROBLEM
NOW IS TO
FIND YOU A
PARTNER.



JINBO-
KUN!!

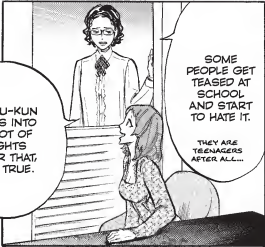
YOU
PLANNIN'
ON
DANCIN' BY
YERSELF?

UM,
YES...



HE'S BEEN
LIKE THAT
EVER SINCE
KAREN-
CHAN GOT
A PARTNER.

D-DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT!



GAJU-KUN
GETS INTO
A LOT OF
FIGHTS
OVER THAT,
IT'S TRUE.

SOME
PEOPLE GET
TEASED AT
SCHOOL
AND START
TO HATE IT.

THEY ARE
TEENAGERS
AFTER ALL...



IT'S A
LITTLE
TOUGH,
BECAUSE
THERE ARE
A LOT OF
PEOPLE WHO
AGE OUT OF
JUNIORS
AT 16 AND
JUST QUIT
DANCING.

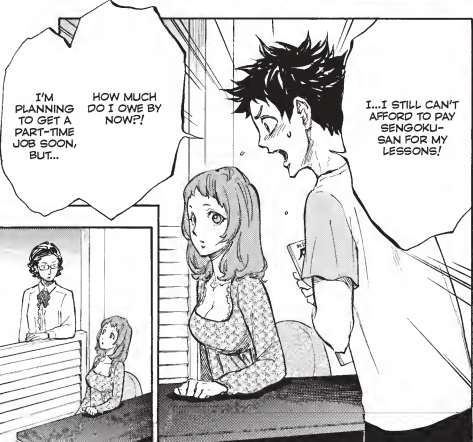
... THERE
REALLY AREN'T
THAT MANY
BEGINNERS
MY AGE, ARE
THERE?



SO TRUE.
THE COST OF
DRESSES AND
LESSON FEES
REALLY ADDS
UP.

SO IF THEY
DON'T GET
GOOD
RESULTS AT
COMPETITIONS,
THEY WIND UP
QUITTING...

PLUS DANCING
IS A SPORT
THAT TAKES A
LOT OF MONEY
TO KEEP UP AS
A HOBBY.



I'M
PLANNING
TO GET A
PART-TIME
JOB SOON,
BUT...

HOW MUCH
DO I OWE BY
NOW?!

I...I STILL CAN'T
AFFORD TO PAY
SENGOKU-
SAN FOR MY
LESSONS!



OH
...!



WASN'T IT AN ARAB OIL PRINCE?

HE'S GOT THAT RICH PATRON IN SHANGHAI, RIGHT?

NO WAY THAT'S TRUE.

HE'S GOT PLENTY OF OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ...



WHAT?!

SENGOKU-KUN DIDN'T SUBMIT ANY CLAIMS. I THINK YOU'RE FINE.



NOW THEY'RE JUST BAD-MOUTHING HIM...

I ASKED HIM TO HELP OUT WITH THE GROUP CLASSES BEFORE, BUT HIS TEACHING STYLE WAS SO AGGRESSIVE...



IT IS RATHER ALL OVER THE PLACE.



ACTUALLY, THE WAY SENGOKU-KUN HAS BEEN HANDLING TATARA-KUN CAN'T REALLY BE CALLED "LESSONS."



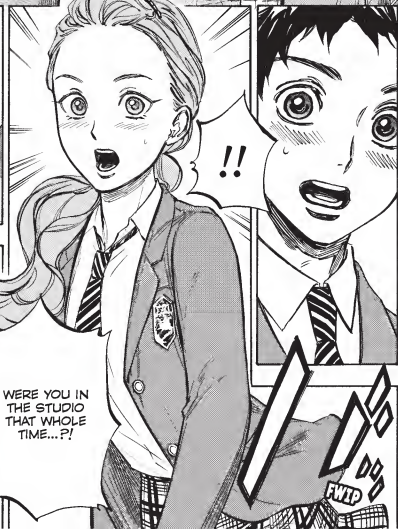
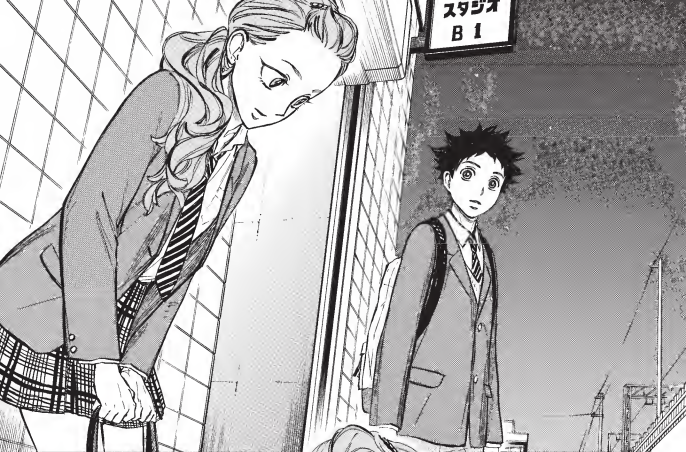
I HOPE...

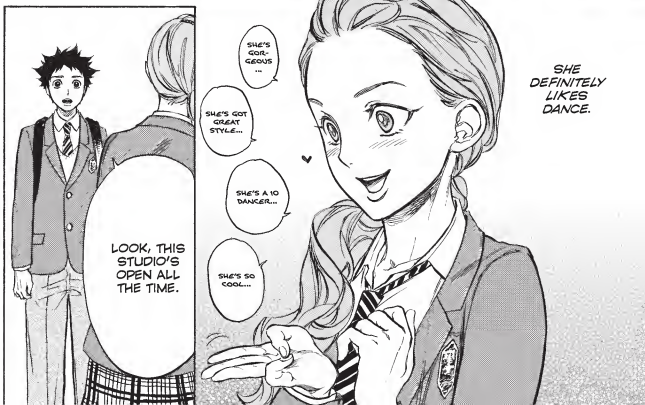
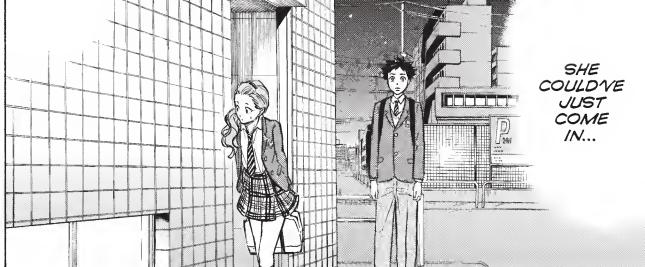
...I GET BETTER AT THIS SOON.

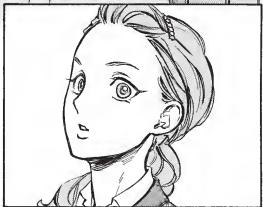
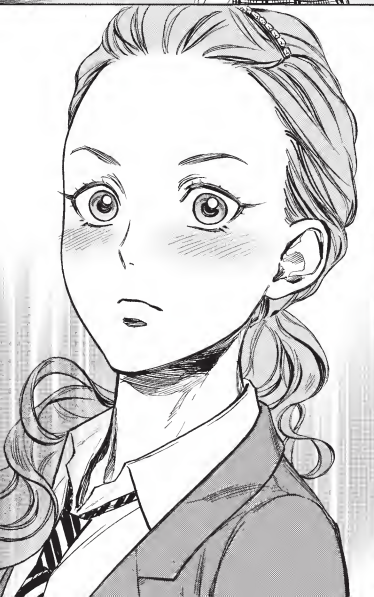


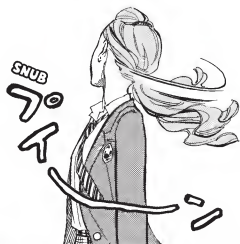
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FACE SENGOKU-SAN.

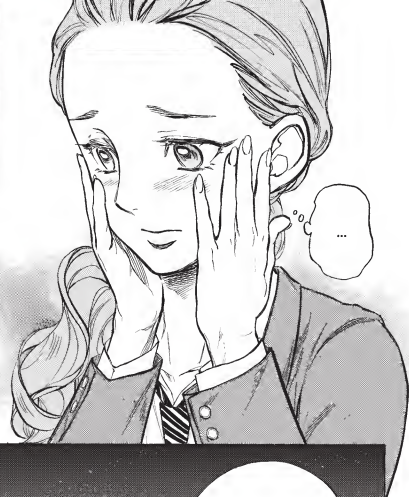
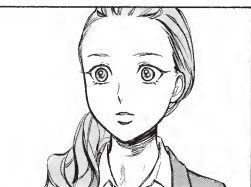
S I I G H ...

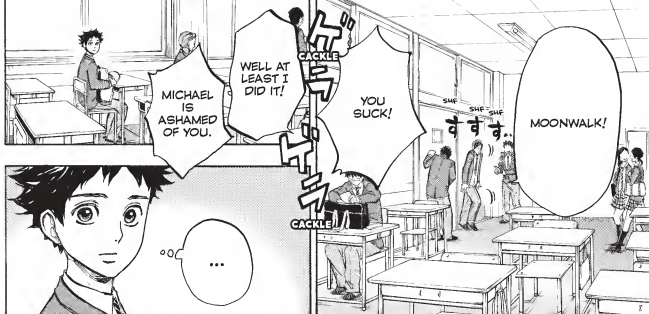


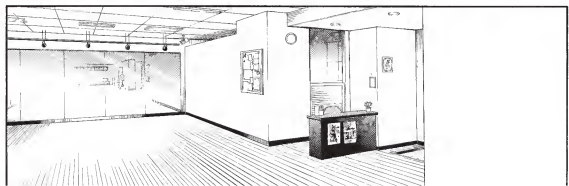




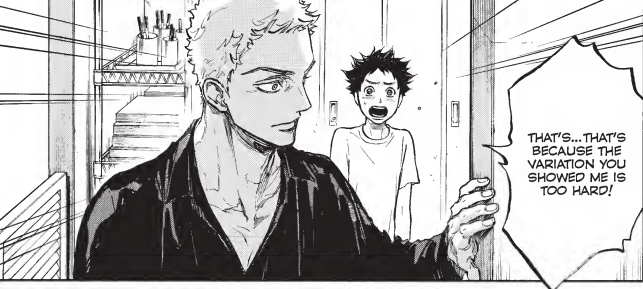














YOU'RE A SHRIMP FOR THE STANDARD, AFTER ALL.

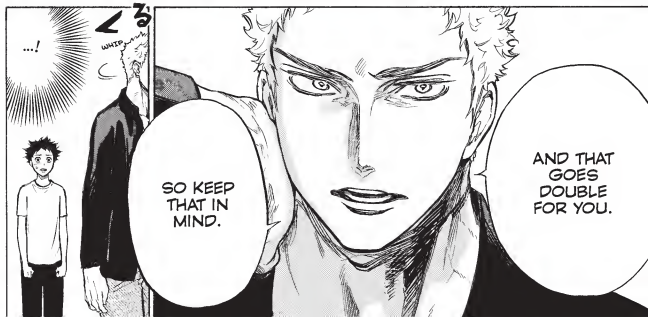
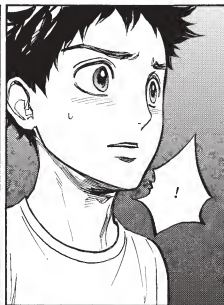
YOU MIGHT NEED A MOVEMENT LIKE THAT SOMEDAY...



WITH THEM AROUND, YOU GOTTA MAKE HUGE MOVEMENTS TO WIN...

...BUT OVERSEAS, I'M SURROUNDED BY DANCERS OVER 6'2.

I MIGHT BE AMAZING AND SUPER TALL HERE IN JAPAN ...



SO KEEP THAT IN MIND.

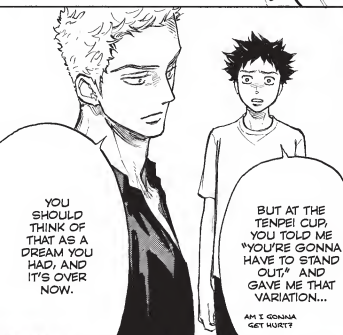
AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU.



THIS IS
HUMILIATING...!
I REALLY HAVE
NO CLUE. I'M
NOT EVEN ON
THE SAME
PLANET AS
THE REST OF
THEM.



OH
GOD.



YOU
SHOULD
THINK OF
THAT AS A
DREAM YOU
HAD, AND
IT'S OVER
NOW.

BUT AT THE
TENPEI CUP,
YOU TOLD ME
"YOU'RE GONNA
HAVE TO STAND
OUT," AND
GAVE ME THAT
VARIATION...

AM I GONNA
GET HURT?



A GUY WHO
CAN BARELY
DO THE
BASICS IS
ONLY GONNA
HURT HIMSELF
TRYING TO DO
VARIATIONS.

I WANT
YOU TO
QUIT OVER-
EXTENDING
YOURSELF.

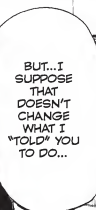
TWIST



...?!



THE FIRST
PART OF IT
SHOULD
BE USEFUL,
RIGHT?



BUT...I
SUPPOSE
THAT
DOESN'T
CHANGE
WHAT I
"TOLD" YOU
TO DO...



...SEN-
SEI...

I DON'T
REMEMBER
SIGNING
UP TO BE
YOUR
TEACHER.



...THAT'S
THE
ULTIMATE
IN COOL.

WHEN ALL
THE DANCERS
AROUND YOU
ARE PUTTING
EVERYTHING
INTO
OVERBLOWN
VARIATIONS...

...AND YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE
CRUSHING THE
BASICS WITH
YOUR PERFECT,
NATURAL FORM.



...!

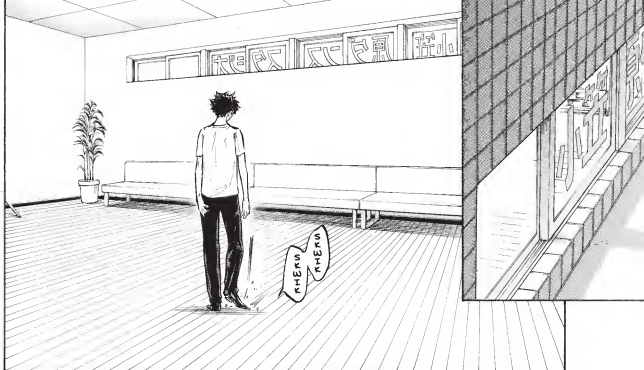
"THEY MADE
IT ALL THE
WAY TO THE
FINALS JUST
DOING THE
BASICS."



...







...USE
YOUR LATS
TO LOWER
YOUR
SHOULDER
BLADES...

FOR THE
HOLD...

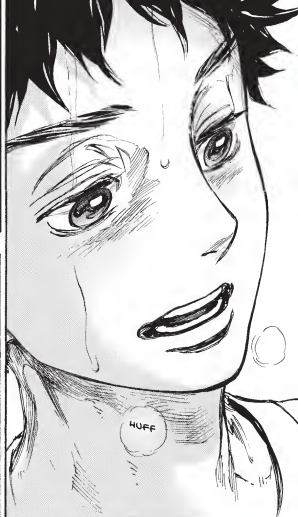
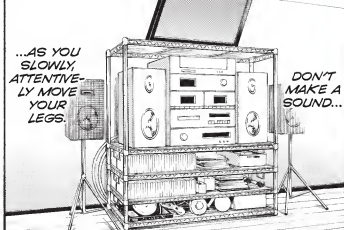
...YOUR
BACK TO
BEND...

...AND, DON'T
ALLOW...

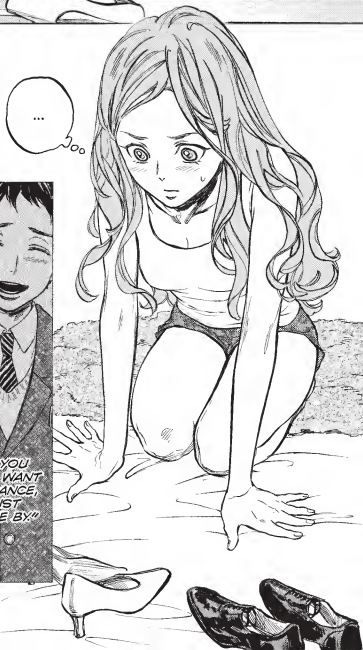
SHF
- - -

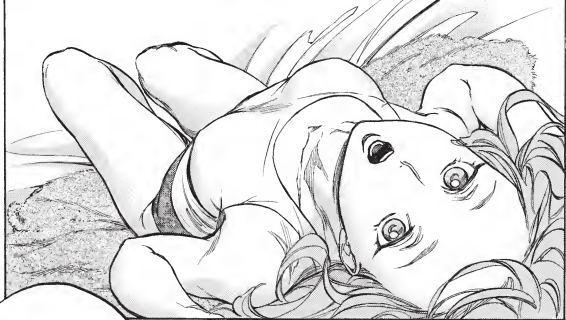


AND
REVERSE
YOUR
ARMS...









***THIS
IS SO
DUMB!***



Heat 21: END

Special thanks!

To all the readers:



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ENTERED TO WIN THE GIFT DESIGN AUTOGRAPH CARDS IN THE MAY ISSUE OF MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE, AND FOR ALL YOUR KIND MESSAGES! I WAS HUMBLLED BY YOUR GREAT AFFECTION. WITH HEARTFELT THANKS,

-TOMO TAKEUCHI

The autograph cards were part of a contest in the May issue of Monthly Shonen Magazine. The contest is now closed.

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



**TATARA'S
QUEST
CONTINUES!**

**WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM**

**Volume 6
coming
soon!**

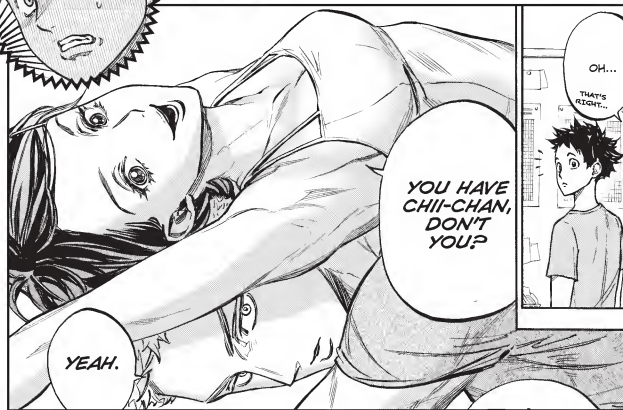


**"YOU HAVE CHII-CHAN,
DON'T YOU?"**

IN JUST A FEW WORDS, SENGOKU'S
PARTNER HONGO THROWS TATARA'S
SEARCH FOR A PARTNER INTO **CHAOS!**



AFTER ALL, THAT VERY SAME "CHII-CHAN"—CHINATSU HIYAMA—HAS ALREADY DERIDED BALLROOM DANCE AS BEING TOTALLY LAME. BUT IN ORDER TO JOIN HIS RIVALS ON THE FLOOR OF COMPETITIVE DANCE, TATARA NEEDS A PARTNER. AND SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS LIKE CHINATSU HAS SOME EXPERIENCE WITH DANCE...



Welcome to the Ballroom 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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